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L.A. PRESIDENTS' STATEMENT ON INTEREST RATE HIKE

PY191944 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1906 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez will now disclose an important document related to the foreign debt of Latin American countries. Mr Lopez will read the document's text:

[Begin Lopez recording] Thank you. This is a joint statement by the presidents of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. Here is the text:

Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Brazilian President Joao Figueiredo, Colombian President Belisario Betancur, and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid express our concern because the development aspirations of our nations, the progress of democratic trends in the region, and the economic security of our continent are seriously damaged by facts that are alien to and beyond the control of our governments.

We are realizing that the successive hikes in interest rates, the prospect that new hikes may take place, and the proliferation and the intensity of the protectionist measures have set a somber picture for our countries and for the entire region. Our countries cannot accept these risks indefinitely. We have asserted our firm commitment to overcome the imbalances and to restore the conditions for resuming or strengthening the economic growth and the process for improving the standard of living of our nations.

We have been the first in showing a willingness to meet our financial commitments in terms that are compatible with the interests of the international community. We do not accept being thrown into a state of forced insolvency and a continued economic stagnation. We regard it as indispensable that, as soon as possible, a concerted effort by the international community be initiated with the goal of concurring on the actions and cooperation measures that allow these problems to be overcome, especially in the interrelated sectors of international trade and finance.

Therefore, we presidents propose the adoption of concrete measures to reach substantive transformations in international financial and trade policies, transformations that expand the possibilities of our products gaining access to the markets of the industrialized nations, that mean a substantial and effective relief of the indebtedness burden, and that permit us to secure the resumption of the finance programs for development. What is particularly required is to achieve adequate amortization terms and periods of grace: a reduction of the interest rates, the margins, commissions and other financial charges.

In view of all this, we are hereby summoning the foreign ministers and the ministers in charge of the financial affairs of our countries to a meeting to be held at the earliest possible date, a meeting to which the ministers of other Latin American governments will also be invited, to agree on the most appropriate initiatives and lines of action with a view toward finding satisfactory solutions for all the nations involved. [end recording]

BRIEFS

L.A. AIR FORCE MEETING -- The 24th Conference of Latin American Air Force Commanders began yesterday. It is being attended by 16 delegations of the countries that are permanent members of the Latin American Air Forces Cooperation System [Sistema de Cooperacion de la Fuerzas Aereas de Latinoamerica]. The Ecuadoran Air Force is hosting the event. [Summary] [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 14 May 84 PA]

ALFONSIN CALLS FOR UNITY IN FACE OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY201710 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1556 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] La Rioja, 20 May (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin and the Justicialist governor of La Rioja, Carlos Menem, today agreed on the need to consolidate national unity to achieve Latin American integration in order to face large international commitments such as the foreign debt. Alfonsin and Menem spoke from the balcony of the La Rioja Government House to about 10,000 people -- according to police sources -- who greeted the two leaders with songs and slogans.

The chief of state said that politicians of different ideologies have gathered here adding that: We are here to chose a path, to define the future. Every one of us knows that we are all united by the same flag and the same national anthem.

Alfonsin emphasized that we have to work to accomplish the objectives which will finally contribute to the reconstruction of the country, adding that by no means will this be possible if we are not able to define some ideas. He indicated the need to search for Latin American integration in order to demand from all the countries of the world respect for our sovereignty.

Alfonsin began his speech by saying: My friends from the Radical, Justicialist, Socialist, and all other parties: We Argentines know our geographical wealth, that we are one of the greatest peoples, without racial or religious problems, and that we must accept our reality. He also spoke about the need for dialogue, agreement, and a political implementation above party interests to accomplish coexistence among Argentines.

Alfonsin added: We are going to struggle for our brothers of Latin America so that no one can assume that we are going to pay the debt by starving our people.

He reiterated the need for unity by recalling a phrase of former President Juan Domingo Peron, who said: "If we do not solve the Argentine problem by ourselves no one will solve it."

He emphasized the need to achieve federalism, respect for human rights, and reign of the law, adding that Argentina cannot be built without the reign of law. He also emphasized that in order for democracy to prevail we have to do away with sectarianism and the spirit of violence people have.

He pointed out the need to build a great country, respected by all nations of the world, one whose voice is heard in all international meetings.

INTERIOR MINISTER EXPLAINS DIALOGUE WITH PARTIES

PY180259 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 84

[Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli's speech at Government House -- live]

[Text] The government has concluded preparations for a dialogue between the president of the nation and representatives of all Argentine political parties. Therefore, it is my duty to inform and explain to the Argentine public the meaning and scope of this dialogue and the reasons why the president has summoned these parties.

We will first point out that this is a noble initiative that deserves an equally noble answer. It is not to be considered as a merely protocol or formal meeting that should end at the president's desk without meaningful results. Neither is it to be understood as a government attempt to hinder or interfere in the parties' domestic affairs. Quite the contrary, we are firmly convinced that the unity of all Argentines is the main foundation upon which we must build our future. And unity and living democracy must in turn be built by a community that is organized into institutions. That is why we respect all institutions that have national representation and that is why the dialogue is open in all directions. Thus, all those who in one way or another have something to do with the life of the nation will be able to have their voice heard and play their role in this still incomplete national reconstruction task.

The government is doing all in its power to end injustice, privileges, and illegal procedures. However, we are also convinced, as everybody else is, that there are issues and problems that we have inherited from a crisis. And nobody should have any doubt that it was the most serious and widespread crisis in Argentine history.

Therefore, we have to rebuild an atmosphere of clean coexistence in our country, an atmosphere where dissent may yield fruitful results, without either arrogant attitudes or sectarian impositions of whatever origin or on whatever issue.

We Argentines must then understand that we have urgent demands to meet. Time has not stopped. The country is living in stagnation and backwardness. In 1984 our per capita production has been much smaller than 10 years before. The purchasing power of salaries is much smaller in 1984 than it was 10 years ago.

Therefore, we have to rebuild our country, we have to find concrete answers, and we have to adopt attitudes that may cope with our persisting problems.

We have asked parties to come to the president to discuss the issues that, in their opinion, are the key factors in the serious situation that our country is experiencing. We will also bring up some subjects, but we will not deal with matters of minor importance

We do not want to curtail either the actions or the independence of parties. We can and we are willing to pay whatever political price for this difficult adjustment stage, for this critical period which we must endure.

The only thing we are asking of all Argentine representative sectors is that they realize that there are problems that need solutions, problems that are not of a limited scope, that did not originate with current circumstances, and that have put our future in jeopardy. They are the problems that we have inherited from a serious crisis.

One of those problems is our foreign debt, which is one of the factors that has most seriously hampered our reconstruction. We must consider this issue not from the cold and speculative standpoint of bankers; the country as a whole must find an answer, because our foreign indebtedness does not only bind this government, but future generations, as well.

We must solve the conflicts with bordering countries, such as the dispute with Chile, which can no longer be considered a hypothetical conflict because it has frozen the possibilities of mutual cooperation and integration with all other Latin American countries. But we must do it as a legally organized country, as a nation whose people make up a sound community. We need the strength of a position backed by the country to seek understanding and decisions to break through Great Britain's harsh and absurd intransigence, to find a final solution through talks and careful debate to the sovereignty problem of our Malvinas Islands.

We also have internal problems in connection with our reconstruction. The formulation of a national reconstruction strategy does not deal with a single set of circumstances. We must put an end to wild competition in which each sector playing a role in the economy expects too much, in a process that ends up fueling an inflation escalation that is weakening our country.

This strategy must then be based on three major objectives, which are not only our targets but the targets of the entire nation. We must reactivate the productive apparatus by making full use of the installed capacity. We have to strengthen real salaries, which have recently undergone devastating effects. All of this must be undertaken within the framework of a unrelenting, gradual, and systematic struggle against inflation, a wild factor that should be put under control once and for all, so that Argentina may return to its historical inflation rates.

There are many issues and many circumstances that justify this summons, which has been launched on the basis of a set of ethical values. Argentines must defend political freedoms and social justice. We also have to attain organic, sustained, and comprehensive development for Argentine society.

We must overcome an overflow of population in urban areas that has left rural areas almost empty, inhabited only by old people and children as youths have abandoned their homes in the search for better opportunities. Therefore, we must pursue the objective of regional development, based on the exploitation of natural resources in rural areas, because there are economic, social, and also geopolitical reasons that impose the immediate need to populate all the territory of the Republic.

Fellow countrymen: We must discontinue sterile debates and fruitless dissidence and discuss issues at the table, where we will hold the great debate. Argentina shows disorder and disquiet on the surface. However, nobody should be deceived, because underneath all this there is a country with a deep desire to accomplish its national objectives and attain development. Hence, we must have faith, a lofty spirit, and honest intentions. All the Argentine people must seek to accomplish the objective of national reconstruction. This cannot be attained overnight and it is not a task for only a small group of people or the government. Argentina's reconstruction calls for organic and systematic efforts from all representative sectors. Each sector must be aware of its responsibility and accomplish its own objectives. But we must all be united to attain our final objective, which is the reconstruction Argentina requires.

We ask the people to rest assured that Argentine definitely has potential natural resources and a people who have not only maintained their moral strength despite adversities, but now also have the power and capacity to again put Argentina on the platform for its final takeoff.

Fellow countrymen, this is the appeal made by President Alfonsin. It is not designed to serve partisan interests or to turn the dialogue into simply cordial and entertaining protocol meetings. His appeal implies a starting point. The dialogue President Alfonsin is initiating is a fresh starting point.

We will establish, along with political parties, the overall framework for the reconstruction process. We will also set priority objectives and adopt basic measures to attain them. The overall framework will include guidelines for party actions. Above and beyond this framework, that will comprise the bases of the reconstruction, we will establish the mechanisms for each sector to concert clear-cut and honest actions.

This is the purpose of the appeal. We have confidence in the answer of all the protagonists of the reconstruction process. We are also confident that politicians have learned from the unfortunate experience of a past studded with disagreement and sterile and absurd conflicts. We want to overcome and get rid of our unfortunate past. In order to build our own future, we ask all the people to help us find the right path and to adopt, together, the basic measures that will enable Argentina to find its own course and regain its former prominent position in the world. We must all commit ourselves to accomplish this objective.

I apologize for having taken some of your time. However, we felt the need to explain a few things, so that nobody would make malicious or selfish interpretations of this presidential appeal. We want to reconstruct the country on the basis of unity, clean coexistence, and understanding among all the Argentine people. Good night and thank you very much.

REPORTAGE ON PRODUCTION, EXPORT OF ARMS

Borras on Navy 'Units'

PY190250 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2040 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, 17 May (NA) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras termed as "probable" that some Navy units may be sold to Third World countries, but he rejected the idea that Iran would be one of the potential buyers.

Borras also admitted that the budget cuts that have been set for the Armed Forces this year are causing a certain amount of trouble, but he indicated that "it will be overcome with the cooperation of everyone."

Borras spoke briefly with the press on his arrival at Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, where he participated in the Argentine Navy's anniversary ceremony together with President Raul Alfonsin. Asked whether some of the Navy's units could be sold to Third World countries, especially Iran, he asserted that "I admit that the possibility of selling some units is under study, but Iran has not been thought of as one of the possible buyers."

Weapons For Third World

PY191814 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2140 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mat (NA) -- It has been learned here that Argentina might become an arms supplier for the Third World over the next few years, because it may begin producing arms under a license granted by FRG firms as part of the renegotiation of the foreign debt incurred to restock the Navy, in keeping with a proposal made by FRG companies.

According to the report, the Defense Ministry is studying the possibility of selling missile frigates, which are built in Argentina under FRG license, to Third World countries to which the FRG cannot sell that kind of weapon because of internal and external political reasons.

The Defense Ministry is also considering the creation of a commercial department. A decision in this regard might be adopted in the next few days.

A Defense Ministry source today explained that "arms sales are almost never arranged at government level but by companies or third parties." The source pointed out that Congress would have to approve the guidelines of a policy for the manufacturing of arms for export. This policy would also include the construction of submarines under license from the Thiesen Company, which has already launched one submarine for Argentina and is building another. Four more submarines are being built in shipyards located in the vicinity of Buenos Aires.

It has also been learned that the FRG manufacturer of Cornier planes may sign a contract with the military aircraft factory of Cordoba to build a training plane equipped with modern electronic systems here. Negotiations on this project have been under way since the military was in power.

On the other hand, 65 TAM tanks, which are ready for delivery, may be sold abroad. A setback for this transaction is the high cost of each tank and the lower prices of similar units that other international manufacturers put on the market.

According to reliable sources, the proposal that Argentina become an exporter of modern weapons was suggested by FRG companies in the wake of a request for renegotiations of the debt that Argentina owes them as a result of its Navy restocking plan. This negotiation, whose crowning point was the trip that Defense Ministry Budget Programming Under Secretary Emilio Cuchiara recently made to the FRG, was successfully concluded although the results were not officially reported.

It was learned that one of the proposals of the FRG companies is to establish joint firms in Argentina to export modern weapons manufactured under license.

Defense Minister Borras yesterday admitted that his ministry is studying the possibility of selling ships to Third World countries, but denied that Iran was a potential buyer.

Borras Denies FRG Branch

PY192350 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2124 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Cordoba, 19 May (TELAM) -- Defense Minister Raul Borras today said here that the Argentine military industry is quite advanced although he warned that the sector must be necessarily restructured. He thus denied a report that an FRG weapons manufacturer would open a branch in Argentina.

Minister Borras presided over the ceremony during which first-year students of the Military Aviation School were delivered their uniforms and sabers. While denying that a defense bill had been drawn up, he admitted that plans are being considered for reducing the compulsory military service period.

Talking to reporters, the minister said that the military industry must be reorganized and restructured. He declared, though, that Argentina has already signed agreements which have given it the technical capability to develop weapons systems.

Borras also denied that the aircraft military factory would be closed or moved, and pointed to the existence of budgetary restrictions for various programs. Such restrictions, he remarked, are the Armed Forces' contribution to the nation, whose economy is in a really dramatic condition. The Armed Forces have understood this situation and are willing to make every effort, he said. We are trying not to delay any program, he stressed, but it should be also understood that it is not possible to give them the impulse that we would like. After pointing out that the country is not able to implement such projects as fast as it would like to, he gave assurances that they will not be abandoned.

Concerning the military budget, he said: We are analyzing the percentages that will correspond to each one of the forces and the projects that will be given regular or priority treatment under the current restrictive conditions.

The ceremony presided over by Minister Borras was also attended by Provincial Governor Eduardo Cesar Angeloz; Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, deputy chief of the Air Force General Staff; Brigadier Vion Carlos Yocca, director of the Military Aviation School headquartered in Cordoba; and other military, civilian, and church authorities.

DEPUTIES APPROVE BILL OF REDRESS FOR MRS PERON

PY181720 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0458 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 May (TELAM) -- A bill that sponsors a historic redress to former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron and which states that the criminal lawsuits filed against her after the military coup of 24 March 1976 are not legally valid was approved by the Chamber of Deputies with the support of both Peronist and Radical blocs, after a debate of over 2 hours.

During the debate, which ended with the brilliant speech of Chamber of Deputies President Juan Carlos Pugliese, the Radical and Peronist Parties agreed on the fact that the bill contributes to national unity. They also seriously questioned the de facto legal system that, since 8 September 1930, has repeatedly been established in our country after coups.

The Chamber of Deputies continues deliberating to complete its parliamentarian task which includes two other bills and three draft statements.

ISABEL PERON ARRIVES, GREETED BY PERONISTS

PA201230 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1207 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (EFE) -- Former Argentine President Isabel Peron today arrived in this capital at the head of a Peronist delegation that will initiate a political dialogue with President Raul Alfonsin tomorrow. The flight that brought the widow of [Juan Domingo] Peron from Madrid, the city where she lived since 1981, landed at Ezeiza Airport at 1136 GMT. Ricardo Pueyrredon, Government House director of protocol, greeted the former president on behalf of Alfonsin.

Approximately 60 Peronist leaders were at the air terminal, while thousands of Peronists carrying posters and noisemakers waited on the terrace of the airport.

Incidents at Hotel

PY201550 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1424 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 May (TELAM) -- Two persons were injured during incidents that took place at 1100 near the Hotel Elevage, where former President Maria Estela de Peron is staying, when the police cordon and barriers at the corner of Maipu and Alvear Streets were overrun by the public. One of the injured was a policeman who was hit on the head by a stone, the other a cameraman from the U.S. CBS Television Network, Raul Borda, who received an eye injury and had to be taken to an ambulance by four persons.

The mass of people broke the metal barrier set up on the corner and began to throw things at the policemen who were forming the cordon, including stones and objects capable of causing injuries. There had been an aggressive attempt a few minutes earlier when the people tried to push through the policemen, opening the way with the poles of banners they carried. Everything was brought under control, but for a short while only, because there is a climate of tension in the areas adjacent to the Elevage Hotel.

DELEGATION OF DEPUTIES TO LEAVE FOR CUBA

PY191748 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Deputies belonging to the Science and Technology Commission of the Chamber of Deputies will leave for Cuba today, invited by the Cuban Government, to discuss bilateral exchange programs. They said that they would also prepare the signing of mutual assistance agreements.

The delegation will be headed by Deputy Jorge Victor Chehin of the Radical Civic Union, Tucuman, who is the head of the Science and Technology Commission. Chehin explained that one of the purposes of the 10-day visit is to learn how Cuba looks upon the Latin American situation and to strengthen the links with that country. Chehin particularly stressed the interest of the delegation in learning about several aspects of the rural housing systems and in laying the groundwork for agreements in that field.

ACTING TIERRA DEL FUEGO GOVERNOR APPOINTED

PY181750 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] President Alfonsin has appointed architect Jorge Nestor Vera as acting governor of Tierra del Fuego, Antarctica, and the South Atlantic Islands. Vera is the only member of the executive branch of Tierra del Fuego Territory who was not aboard the airplane that crashed last Tuesday. Until then, Vera was acting minister of public works and services in Tierra del Fuego.

OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY RESIGNS OVER TELEX LEAK

PY201750 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 19 May 84 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Dante Caputo accepted the resignation of the director-general for foreign affairs, retired Colonel Gustavo Caceres, yesterday, reliable Ministry sources said last night. Caceres' resignation was said to be related to the leak of a secret government document last March. The sources explained that Caceres was in charge of the telex department from which a Ministry document, referring to foreign debt renegotiation talks, was leaked to a Buenos Aires daily.

MINISTERS, LEADERS SEEK SUPPORT, LOANS

PY171445 Paris AFP in Spanish 0038 GMT 14 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 14 May (AFP) -- It was reported here today that in the past few weeks the Bolivian foreign minister and top economic officials began a broad international campaign which will result in obtaining loans totaling $240 million. Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez Saavedra, who met with Argentine President Raul Alfonsin, Brazilian President Joao Baptista Figueiredo, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and high-ranking officials of Latin American countries and international organizations, has stated that the international community has firmly supported the Bolivian democratic process. Fernandez visited Washington recently along with former Planning Ministers Roberto Jordan and Arturo Nunez del Prado. All three headed a Bolivian delegation that negotiated loans to even out the balance of payments and pay pending debts.

FINANCE MINISTRY SUMMONS BANK EMPLOYEES TO WORK

PY181905 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The public relations department of the Finance Ministry has just released the following communique regarding the employees of the Bolivian Central Bank.

[Begin unidentified Finance Ministry official recording] Thank you. The employees of the Bolivian Central Bank are informed that they must be at their places of work today as of 1400. The employees who are then absent will be punished by the government according to the law. La Paz 18 May 1984. Finance Ministry. Thank you. [end recording]

INTERIOR MINISTER ON ATTACK, CENTRAL BANK

PY192012 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata admitted this morning that he was the victim of an attack when he was going home in the southern part of the city. He added that this incident is being investigated by the authorities.

Regarding another issue, the interior minister said that there is no deadline for starting the operations of the Bolivian Central Bank. He also indicated that the police have orders not to use violence; their only task is to enforce the law.

Bankers To Go on Hunger Strike

PY190120 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] The government's dictated resolutions to normalize the operation of the Central Bank of Bolivia have been to no avail because of the attitude of its functionaries. The government has not yet employed force to resume the work at this institution. As things are going, however, the government will have to. Possibly the government will later have to adopt a different attitude. Interior Minister Federico Alvarez Plata was consulted by a Panamericana reporter.

[Begin recording] [Plata] Well, I believe that the decree clearly spells everything out. It sets forth all the decisions the government has taken and will take for normalizing the services of the Central Bank.

[Question indistinct]

[Plata] I do not believe that it is imminent, but the truth is that we have personnel of the Bolivian Police inside the bank. [end recording]

In view of the government's decisions to intervene in the Central Bank, Hugo Peredo, press secretary of the Central Bank Workers Union, has confirmed that a call for a hunger strike will be complied with by all the functionaries of the Central Bank.

LECHIN SCORES SILES' GOVERNMENT AS 'NEOFASCIST'

PY190105 Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] La Paz, 18 May (AFP) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo, the top leader of the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], asserted here today that Hernan Siles Zuazo's government is a neofascist and police-state government, because it is at the service of imperialism, the bankers, and the speculators. But the people will resist as they have resisted the dictatorships of the past, he added.

This statement is the labor leader's first answer to the intervention of the Central Bank, which was ordered last night by Siles Zuazo in order to implement the economic measures that his government approved on 12 April, including a 300 percent devaluation of the Bolivian peso as related to the U.S. dollar. Lechin Oquendo has also criticized the way in which the police are dispersing the demonstrations of the workers, because, he said, the government should democratically respect expressions of protest. He also announced that the COB will hold a national congress next Monday in which the workers as a whole will adopt a unanimous decision.

Meanwhile, public employees have stopped working because they do not agree with the salary increase that the government has approved. Moreover, Siles Zuazo has been able to overcome the strike of the oil workers, therefore the circulation of private vehicles and public transport service is slowly returning to normal.

YPFB, OIL WORKERS FEDERATION REACH AGREEMENT

PY181725 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] The conflict created by oil workers has been solved. Yesterday evening an agreement was reached between the general manager of Bolivian Government Oil Deposits [YPFB] and the Oil Workers Federation, putting an end to the conflict created by the oil workers' demands, demands which were criticized by the population, and also by the Bolivian Labor Federation. Oscar Pineiro, secretary general of the Oil Workers Federation, said that according to the agreement YPFB will deliver 400 liters of gasoline to each worker. He also indicated that the workers will go back to work today, adding that they expect the government to immediately withdraw the police units which intervened at the oil deposits at Entre Rios in La Paz and (Sencarta) in El Alto.

The Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons has released a document regarding the solution of the conflict which says:

The Ministry of Energy and Hydrocarbons reports to the population that now that the conflict with the oil workers of the country has been solved, YPFB will start the normal distribution of fuel throughout the country today, 18 May 1984.

[Signed] Luis Saucedo Justiniano, minister of energy and hydrocarbons; (Ricardo Montiel), YPFB general manager.

PMDB, PDS DISCUSS CHAVES-NEVES TICKET

PY192128 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1555 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] Supporters of Vice President Aureliano Chaves and of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] are evaluating the possibility of defeating Maluf and Andreazza in an eventual presidential election both at the Electoral College and at the popular level.

This information was reported by "bionic" Senator Alfonso Camargo, who is the PMDB secretary general. He confirmed that Aureliano Chavez, PMDB leaders, and Wellington Moreira Franco, the president of the Rio de Janeiro branch of the PDS [Social Democratic Party], would meet.

Camargo also admitted that if agreement is reached on a candidate of consensus, this candidate will certainly be Minas Gerais Governor Tancredo Neves. Therefore, the possibility of a ticket made up of Aureliano and Tancredo has not been ruled out.

PCB FAVORS, PCDOB OPPOSES NEGOTIATIONS

PY191837 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 May 84 p 3

[Text] Sao Paulo -- "The opposition should sponsor a single candidate, who should enjoy the confidence of the people and who should be elected by a national convention attended by the various opposition sectors and by parties with popular support but which have not yet been granted official recognition." This statement is part of a document issued by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Brazil (PCdoB), which points out that it will support negotiations "provided the people are allowed to participate and provided negotiations are not held secretly."

In the document, the Central Committee remarks that the military regime is falling to pieces and that negotiations "are nothing but a government attempt to gain time in order to rearrange its crumbling ranks." The documents adds: "Under the terms of the negotiation, the struggle has been transferred to Congress, among party leaderships, and very close to Government House, in line with the governments' intention of dividing the opposition. But it is not possible to negotiate the nation's willingness to have direct elections immediately. [quotation marks as published]

The Brazilian Communist Party (PCB) Secretary General Giocondo Dias said yesterday in Sao Paulo that 1987 is a very appropriate year for holding direct elections to choose the president, as was suggested by Senator Aderbal Jurema, the spokesman for the joint commission that is debating the Figueiredo amendment. Giocondo Dias defended the idea of a transition government for not matter how long a period, provided it promises to introduce changes. In his opinion, the oppositon must sponsor a single candidate in the succession process, although he did not say whether the opposition should participate at the Electoral College.

The opposition could not win a confrontation at the Electoral College and, therefore, it should continue negotiating. I believe that the convocation of a national constituent assembly, the modification of the financial-economic policy, and the revision of the tax system should be debated at the talks, he said.

EMFA CHIEF VASCONCELOS REASSERTS MILITARY UNITY

PY172155 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 May 84 p 3

[Text] Manaus -- In reference to an interview granted by former President Medici and the election at the Military Club, Brigadier General Waldyr Vasconcelos, chief of the Armed Forces General Staff [EMFA], yesterday said: "Neither one thing nor the other will undermine the unity of the Armed Forces." In his opinion, "Medici spoke thoughtlessly, he is responsible for what he says, but his position does not interfere with the unity of the Armed Forces."

Beginning a 3-day visit to the military units in Amazonas, Waldyr Vasconcelos said he trusted Brazilian politicians to honor their tradition as negotiators and conciliators by conducting both the voting on Figueiredo's amendment and the decision on the succession process as best as possible.

Vasconcelos considered the amendment as perfect, not only regarding the year set for direct elections (1988) but also regarding several other articles amending the Constitution.

Alluding to opposition sectors that insist on having direct elections now, Vasconcelos said that it is not right to be inflexible regarding a certain date, much less to begin negotiations by saying that one will not negotiate this or that.

Vasconcelos said negotiations are necessary and that the nation only expects that those politicians having this power will be able to conduct the process.

In Vasconcelos' opinion, it is up to each individual, as in the case of Minister Mario Andreazza and deputy Paulo Maluf, to give up his presidential candidacy.

Gen Vasconcelos did not want to give any name as to who could be a consensus candidate.

Vasconcelos said: I do not have a crystal ball. I must not give my opinion on this matter. In fact, military institutions do not have and cannot have candidates.

When asked by a reporter about the Federal Government's relations with Governor Leonel Brizola, Vasconcelos said: Although at a protocol level, they maintain relations.

Before leaving the Manaus air base, where he was received by Governor Gilberto Mestrinho, the state government secretaries, and the military commanders of the region, Vasconcelos said: It is not the EMFA's task to judge Brizola's political behavior, "but what is expected is that he governs well."

CONGRESS MAY PROPOSE RELATIONS WITH CUBA

PY190308 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 May 84 p 6

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- The Foreign Relations Committee of the Chamber of Deputies yesterday determined that Congress is entitled to propose the prompt reestablishment of relations between Brazil and Cuba to the Foreign Ministry. The opinion of Deputy Francisco Benjamin (PDS [Social Democratic Party]-Bahia) that the legislative branch cannot give that instruction to the executive branch was rejected.

Deputy Benjamin had wanted the question to be decided by the Constitution and Justice Committee because it involves aspects of the body's internal regulations, but he was defeated in the first round, and now he has to write a vote for or against the reestablishment of relations between the two countries.

Suggesting that the attitude discriminated against Cuba, Deputy Marcio Santilli stressed the commercial advantages that the reestablishment of diplomatic relations would have.

IRAQI GOVERNMENT PAYS COMPENSATION TO FIRM

PY171914 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 84 p 10

[Text] Yesterday, the Iraqi Government agreed to pay $200 million to the Mendes Junior firm as compensation for the increase caused by the Iranian-Iraqi war in the cost of projects implemented by the firm in Iraq. Furthermore, the Iraqi Government approved new projects for Mendes Junior totaling $300 million.

In Iraq, Mendes Junior constructed the Baghdad-Al Basrah highway and the Baghdad-Al Qa'im-'Akashat railroad, for which it employed 14,000 workers, including 5,000 Brazilians. During the construction of these works, the prices of all equipment, raw materials, labor, and insurances increased as a result of the war with Iran.

With Itamaraty's support, Mendes Junior demanded reimbursement for the additional expenses. The Iraqi Government agreed to pay $200 million to Mendes Junior during a ceremony held at the Foreign Ministry yesterday. In attendance were Saraiva Guerreiro and Abdul Wahab al-Mufti, former president of the Iraqi Directorate of Highways and Bridges and current mayor of Baghdad. During the ceremony, it was announced that the Iraqi Government and Mendes Junior will sign agreements for the implementation of irrigation projects in Nassirya on the Euphrates River for an amount totaling $300 million.

JOINT AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION PROJECT WITH UK

PY182026 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 May 84 p 6

[Excerpt] Brazil and Great Britain will develop a binational project for the joint production of an airplane to be used in commuter aviation. It will be on the market by the first few years of the next century. This information was provided by EMBRAER (Brazilian Aeronautics Company) in Sao Jose dos Campos yesterday.

The airplane project is part of a number of industrial and technological contracts in the aerospace field that will be signed today in London between Colonel Osires Silva, president of the Brazilian company, and Philip Foreman, superintendent of Short Brothers. The contracts also aim at participation in the international bidding put out by the Royal Air Force, for the purchase of 155 advanced training aircraft for British military pilots, with an approximate value of $250 million. The British Government wants the chosen aircraft to be built, under license, on assembly lines in Brazil under binational supervision.

DEFENSE MINISTER DENIES ARMS DEAL WITH UK

PY182018 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0345 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 17 May (EFE) -- Chilean Defense Minister Vice Admiral Patricio Carvajal today denied that negotiations are being conducted between Great Britain and Chile for a $75-million arms deal.

Questioned by the afternoon daily LA SEGUNDA on reports datelined London, Vice Adm Carvajal regarded as "completely false speculations" the statements that the death of Nazi war criminal Walter Rauff would eliminate "the last obstacle" for the sale of war materiel to Chile.

The reports datelined London, which are borne out by "government sources" and by the newspaper DAILY STAR, stated that Margaret Thatcher proposed to Chile a rebate in the sales price of assorted war materiel, provided that the Santiago government allow that Rauff stand trial before a German court for war crimes.

No Conditions Set

PY182015 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] Britain has not set any conditions for the sale of weapons to Chile. This is what Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said, referring to the request made for the explusion of the late Walter Rauff.

It should be mentioned, though, that a cable has stated that with the death of the high-ranking officer of the Nazi Army from World War II, any impediment for the shipment of arms to our country by England has disappeared. However, nobody at the Foreign Ministry has any knowledge of the above-mentioned cable, Del Valle said. I believe the report is spurious, he said.

Concerning the damaging report issued by the UN Economic and Social Council on human rights in Chile, Del Valle said that this is something that will remain unchanged, regardless of the internal situation in Chile. This is so because it is the price that we have been paying since 11 September 1973, Del Valle stressed. He noted, furthermore, that the Soviet Union will never pardon us for what we have done.

Regarding terrorism, Del Valle stated that it is a new phenomenon. Del Valle said, however, that he expected that in the near future the countries will be able to adopt consistent approaches in order to counter it.

Concerning the bearing of the Antiterrorist Law on Chilean foreign policy, Del Valle said that the regulations of the Antiterrorist Law could have some international repercussions. However, that responsibility must be accepted, he stressed. Del Valle said that the government must find ways to maintain internal order. He also said that the day that Chile tries to achieve a given image abroad, it will have lost its national spirit.

PRODEN CRITICIZES PINOCHET, ANTITERRORIST LAW

PY171500 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0333 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The "National Development Project" (PRODEN), an opposition group, today requested that the simultaneous holding of the posts of president of the Republic and Army commander in chief by General Augusto Pinochet be considered incompatible.

PRODEN's top leaders stated that "Gen Pinochet's behavior should no longer continue tarnishing the Armed Forces," referring to the alleged irregularities committed by the chief of state in the purchase of some real estate, and asked the government junta to follow the Argentine pattern by declaring as incompatible the posts of commander in chief and president of the Republic.

The charges leveled by the opposition "are against captain General Augusto Pinochet and not against the Armed Forces because it is Pinochet who is not alien to exercising power," Diego Portales, a PRODEN leader, stated.

PRODEN President Engelberto Frias, a former rightist deputy, stated that today "is a sad day for Chile due to the enactment of an antiterrorist law," and regretted "the crimes and horrors" that may be committed in the name of this law. Frias said that what is most important "at the present time is unity against the dictatorship because only in a democracy is it possible to discuss the differences between democrats."

Politicians React to Law

PY182135 Madird EFE in Spanish 2124 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpt] Santiago, 17 May (EFE) -- The new Chilean Antiterrorist Law, which went into force today, has been supported by politicians loyal to General Pinochet's government and has been criticized by the opposition.

Ignacio Astete, member of the Political Committee of the independent Democratic Union, believes that the law is positive "because it interprets the desire for peace of thousands of Chileans."

Fernando Marturana, member of the political committee of the National Union, said that the amendment resolved one of the main points of controversy of the initial bill since "courts of law will now judge terrorist crimes."

Ricardo Lagos, Socialist Party representative to the opposition Democratic Alliance, said that the law has political and legal defects. Regarding its political defects, he said that it is an error "to believe that only nongovernment groups are involved in terrorist activities since we know that the state, unfortunately, is also heavily involved in them." From the legal aspect, Lagos said that the law does not clearly specify what actions are considered crimes and "this allows security organs to violate personal rights under the excuse of fighting terrorism." He said that "this does not mean that the state cannot adopt measures to protect itself from terrorism but rather it should not use the threat of terrorism to justify its own terrorist activities."

Radical Party Vice President Patricio Morales criticized several aspects of the new Antiterrorist Law enacted by General Augusto Pinochet's regime. Morales denounced the reward for those people who give information about the crime in which they participated, which consists of reducing their sentence by one count; the tapping of telephone conversations; the violation of personal mail without judicial authorization; and the legal appointment of the National Intelligence Center as adviser to the courts.

UDI CALLS FOR DEFENSE AGAINST U.S. PROTECTIONISM

PY191914 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The Independent Democratic Union [UDI] has made a call for the united moblization of all citizens in defense of Chile and the noble interests of the country. In a public statement, the UDI says the petition of 11 U.S. copper mining companies to reduce the exports [as heard] of Chilean copper is devoid of any [words indistinct], because those companies are unable to produce in competition with the Chilean Copper Corporation under the condition of low demand which is a result of the world crisis, and [words indistinct].

The UDI says that the petition proves that the rejection of (?unjustified) protectionism and the opening of our economy toward foreign competition are the best sources of moral authority to defend the country against those who wish to harm Chile through protectionist measures. It further says that if President Reagan agrees to the copper companies' request he will go against the principles of free international trade.

The UDI concludes by deploring the fact that the political passion of certain opposition leaders (?mixes up) this problem with the international image of the Chilean Government.

JOURNALISTS REJECT PRESS LAW MODIFICATIONS

PY190030 Paris AFP in Spanish 0432 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 17 May (AFP) -- Chilean journalists today criticized a new press law which modifies the law currently in force and which pertains to abuse in the use of publicity and also increases the punishment for the crimes of slander and insult. The new law also refers to crimes against the overall private lifestyle of the persons that could cause material or moral harm to the person and the person's relatives.

The Association of Journalists, which groups all professionals within this sector, has categorically rejected the new modifications, and it stresses that they seriously limit the possibility of reporting on matters that could be of very great importance for the public. It also states its reservations about the modifications, indicating that they will force concealment of the truth due to the increase in the punishment for journalists and the media in general.

Press sources believe that the new law has been approved at a time in which the country is experiencing an intense debate about alleged irregularities committed by President General Augusto Pinochet in the purchase of some land. Several opposition periodicals recently rocked Chilean public opinion when they published details of the deal.

Blanket Censorship Ceases

PY191520 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0426 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Santiago, 18 May (EFE) -- Edwin Harrington, publisher of the magazine CAUCE, has told EFE that the blanket censorship which had been imposed on the Chilean opposition magazines ANALYSIS, CAUCE, and FORTIN MAPOCHO ceased today. Harrington told EFE that an official of the National Social Communications Agency (Dinacos) has told him that it was no longer necessary that he send for review, beforehand, material due for publication.

Harrington said that "with the new press law, blanket censorship is no longer necessary since it punishes reports on persons' private lives, regardless of whether they are true or false."

The "law of publication abuse," also known as the press law, went into effect on Thursday. This law, besides increasing the punishment for crimes of slander and libel, establishes a new crime: reporting on a person's private life which results in moral damage.

The Chilean Journalists Association has declared "its blunt rejection" of the new law and, in a public statement, it has denounced that "under the excuse of an alleged material or moral damage which the press might cause the person's honor, the possibility of reportting on matters that could be of utmost public interest is thereby seriously hampered."

COPPER WORKERS ASK POPE TO HELP FASTING COMRADES

PY172152 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] In view of the fact that the seven copper workers who have been fasting in Rancagua are now into their 19th day of fast the Catholic Church has called for a prompt solution to their situation. At the same time leaders of the copper workers have sent a letter to the interior minister asking him to intercede with the appropriate authorities so that the worker can be reinstated. They also sent a note to Pope John Paul II asking him to mediate in this conflict which is threatening the life of the workers.

Strikers Hospitalized

PY192330 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] Dr Nicolas Diaz, who has given medical treatment to the miners on a hunger strike in Rancagua, has said that their fourth week of fasting, which began today, will be a critical period. He reported that miners Juan Barrientos and Marcelino Carrasco had to be taken to the Rancagua regional hospital at the insistence of physicians. Dr Diaz explained that even though the two miners were taken to the hospital, the remain determined to continue their hunger strike; they are only receiving a saline solution at the hospital.

INJURED FRENCH PRIEST ASKS FOR INVESTIGATION

PY170339 Paris AFP in Spanish 2332 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpts] Santiago, 16 May (AFP) -- The lawyers of French Catholic priest Pierre Dubois, who was beaten last week by Chilean policemen, have reported that Dubois has requested a court investigation into the attack. A formal suit against the attackers has been submitted to a Santiago judge advocate. The priest had defended a family whose residence was raided by policemen near Dubois' parish in La Victoria, one of the poorest neighborhoods in southern Santiago. According to a medical certificate the priest was injured in the head and in one leg.

58 DETAINED FOR BREAKING TRAFFIC CURFEW

PY182150 Santiago Radio Cooperativa in Spanish 1715 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Fifty-eight persons have been detained by Carabineros for violating traffic restrictions. The drivers have been taken to the respective police district courts where they will have to pay a fine for violating rules concerning circulation of vehicles. This restriction is in force from 0100 to 0500 in the morning.

NEW JUSTICE MINISTER PLEDGES TO IMPROVE SYSTEM

PA190207 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 May 84 p 1, 15

[Justice Minister Enrique Parejo Gonzalez' "appeal to the nation" at his investiture at the Presidential Palace on 15 May]

[Excerpts] All of Colombia now has its eyes and firm hopes set on the national government as we are beset by tremendous difficulties and danger.

At this difficult moment, all of society gathers in solidarity around the authorities in the defense of institutions and in the struggle against organized crime, because it knows that these are moments of great problems and serious definitions that can take us on a path to progress and social justice or throw us into the depths of moral disintegration and misery.

The country demands a change of social and economic structures. The great majority of the Colombian people feel that this is an overwhelming and pressing necessity. Only fools can disregard this honest truth. However, the country also wants this change to take place in the framework of the law and without having to sacrifice its best men, nor over the burning embers or shambles of its most respectable institutions.

It has been said that the Colombian justice system is in crisis. This is a half-truth. It is society that is in crisis. Its most precious values are in crisis. Unless we manage to rebuild these values, neither society nor its institutions will be able to recover from their present prostration. Although I know that the Justice Ministry's task cannot be accomplished by any single man or the government alone -- it must be the task of everyone together -- I solemnly promise to do everything in my power to improve the conditions of justice in Colombia. For this I hope to have the support and encouragement of all my fellow citizens.

ANTINARCOTICS OPERATIONS CONTINUE, ARRESTS MADE

Manhunt Continues

PA190235 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 May 84 pp 1A, 8A

[Excerpts] Ricardo and Said Pabon Jatter, two Colombians wanted by U.S. authorities, were arrested in Bogota as a result of an intense manhunt Colombian authorities have been carrying out in the past weeks as part of the Swordfish Operation, an effort to locate those wanted for extradition.

In the meantime, the police have dealt another demolishing blow to drug traffickers in Vichada after raiding 14 camps equipped with modern laboratories for processing narcotics.

The Colombian Government has asked U.S. authorities for the papers required to proceed with the extradition of Colombians wanted by the U.S. authorities.

The Justice Ministry has received a list from the Civil Aeronautical Board with the license numbers and location of 137 aircraft which the National Council for Narcotics has grounded. Fifty of these aircraft have already disappeared. All are now under the jurisdiction of military penal justice.

Acting Justice Minister Nazly Lozano complained that the documents they had received from U.S. authorities were incomplete and did not comply with the extradition formalities and therefore the Colombians who have been arrested still have not been extradited.

The Colombian authorities have set up special operational plans in various cities to try to capture Mejia Romero, Gomez Vangrieken, Jose Jader Alvarez Moreno, Carmenza Valenzuela Martinez, Antonio Jose Uribe Calle, Alvaro Barcenas, Mario Ochoa, Armando Tejada, John Jairo Ramirez, Marlene Navarro, Oscar Garcia, Luis Enrique, the Julian and Mario Otoya Tobon brothers, Linda Gomez Otoya, Hernando Arana, Carlos Julio Gomez, Guillermo Bueno, Jaime Ramirez, Susie Shuster and the Pabon Jatter brothers.

The Government already has all the papers for the extradition of Carlos Lehder Rivas, who is a fugitive like the others on the list for extradition and who must face 12 changes in a federal court in Florida. [passage omitted]

Drug Raids, Arrests

PA181442 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 13 May 84 pp 1A, 7A

[By Rafael Sarmiento Colley]

[Excerpts] Barranquilla, 12 May -- Troops from the La Popa Battalion have captured 24 guerrillas of the outlawed National Liberation Army (ELN) in the mountainous region of Perija, Cesar Department. Powerful weapons and 150 tons of marijuana pressed into bricks ready to be delivered to international drug trafficking criminals were seized.

This report was issued by the 2d Brigade headquartered in Barranquilla. Its leader, Brigadier General Ubaldo Franco Aristizabal, said that this has been one of the most severe blows inflicted on what he described as "the sinister mixture of guerrillas and drug trafficking."

In another operation, carried out by troops of the Cartagena Battalion headquartered in La Guajira, at the La Pedregosa and El Milagro Farms, Dibuya Corregimiento, 21 individuals were captured. Forty-one bags of first-class marijuana pressed into bricks for exporting, two bags of cocaine leaves, and equipment to process cocaine were seized.

In yet another operation in Curumani and in Bosconia, Cesar Department, William Hernan Ochoa and Jose Sebastian Morgan Ballesteros were captured. A 9-mm submachinegun, a pistol of the same caliber, and 7 tons of pressed marijuana were seized.

Prior to this operation, the authorities learned from reports that the drug trafficking-guerrilla combination had established itself in the mountainous country of Perija, on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, on the Cesar Department side. The center of their operations was San Jose de Oriente.

REBEL CEASE-FIRE TO TAKE EFFECT 28 MAY

PA210249 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- The entire country will be paralyzed for 2 minutes on 28 May during the so-called Drive for Peace and Democratic Opening, because on that day the cease-fire of a rebel group will be in force.

In addition, Colombian political parties today promised to carry out a mobilization drive on 28 May to support the beginning of the truce with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC. This pro-Soviet organization is the oldest active guerrilla group in Colombia.

On Monday, 28 May, all the bells in the country are to ring while 28 million Colombians display white handkerchiefs and the yellow, blue, and red national flag in massive support for President Betancur on enforcing a cease-fire with the FARC.

Furthermore, the Colombian authorities expect to carry out the formalization of an agreement with the 19 April Movement, M-19, leaders, and the Maoist Popular Liberation Army, EPL, in order to hold a national dialogue and take further steps for the country's pacification.

The traditional Colombian parties, the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party, as well as the Communist Party of Colombia, have said that they are committed to the peace drive and the democratic opening, while at the same time stressing the pacification efforts carried out by President Betancur.

ARMY, GUERRILLAS CLASH IN SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS

4 Guerrillas Killed in Caqueta

PA180451 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 May 84 p 9C

[Report by Jorge Parga Vanegas]

[Text] Neiva, 11 May — Today, the 9th Brigade confirmed the death of four FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] guerrillas who belonged to the group led by Gustavo Arias Londono, alias "Boris," in clashes near Garzon. According to a military spokesman, two of the subversives who were killed were identified as Fernando Perez Quintero, alias "Hernan," and Maria Lucy Vargas, alias "Gloria." A military counter-offensive has been in force in this area since 12 April and, according to Army statistics, the guerrillas have suffered 25 casualties to date. No unusual developments took place in yesterday's confrontations, following which the government forces seized various war supplies. It has been indicated that roads and trails leading to Caqueta Department, in the eastern mountains, have been sealed off by the Army to prevent rebels from returning to the area.

Soldiers, Guerrillas Killed

PA172203 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 14 May 84 pp 1A, 11A

[By Carlos Campo]

[Excerpts] Popayan, 13 May -- Five soldiers and 15 subversives have been killed in the past few hours in clashes in the central mountains of northern Cauca. These clashes result from pursuit operations following the abortive 8 May attack on the police headquarters in Miranda.

Reports from Caqueta indicate that the Army has surrounded a guerrilla redoubt commanded by Gustavo Arias, alias Boris, who led the abortive attack on Florencia and who allegedly is either wounded or dead.

The death of Reinaldo Capera, alias Huber, an important M-19 [19 April Movement] leader, was confirmed. He was killed in a clash on the border of Huila and Caqueta. Reinaldo was the brother of the fearsome Jairo Capera, killed a year ago in Caqueta. Some seven extremists have been killed in the clashes in Caqueta.

There have been reports of clashes with units of the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] in Sabana de Torres, Santander, where four guerrillas were killed.

Exodus Denied

PA182145 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 May 84 pp 1A, 8A

[Report by Felio Augusto Plazas]

[Text] Cali -- The 3d Brigade Command today officially reported the deaths of six guerrillas in clashes that occurred during the pursuit that began last week after the insurgents attacked the town of Miranda, Cauca.

Four soldiers also lost their lives during these clashes, which took place on Saturday and Sunday. The official communique added that the four soldiers were buried in Cali on Monday.

The clashes between the Army and the insurgents took place along the slopes of the central mountain range in areas near Miranda, Media Naranja, Rio Negro, and Quebraditas, in north Cauca.

The 3d Brigade also reported that they had recovered the following military materiel: 2 M-1 rifles, 8 M-1 clips, 6 fragmentation grenades, 10 camping kits, a large amount of dynamite, mines, homemade bombs, a radio, and subversive propaganda.

The military command denied press reports stating that the peasant population has been leaving the areas where the antiguerrilla operation is taking place.

The communique added that "we officially state that the reports released by the press regarding an alleged exodus of peasants to Corinto is not true. What has occurred, and which is normal under these circumstances, is that some peasants, scared by the operations, had gone to Corinto but are now returning to their land."

A 3d Brigade officer added that the operations in the mountainous area and in north Cauca continue and that the pursuit and search for subversives is being carried out by land and air.

LAWYER, POLICEMEN MURDERED IN MEDELLIN

PA191631 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Medellin -- The wave of violence in this department capital continued today with the shooting death of criminal lawyer Jorge Eliecer Valencia Agudelo.

The authorities said that two men and one woman traveling in a private vehicle intercepted Valencia Agudelo outside his residence in the La America District. As he prepared to enter his car, he was caught by surprise with several shots that killed him instantly.

The perpetrators of this crime rapidly escaped and thus far the secret police corps and the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] have been unable to obtain any clues as to their whereabouts.

Valencia Agudelo, 47, received three shots in various parts of his body that killed him instantly.

Three people were shot to death today in Medellin in the brief span of 8 hours, as two national policemen were killed this morning by a group of presumed guerrillas.

SENATOR SEEKS GREATER ANTITERRORISM ROLE FOR ARMY

PY172247 Paris AFP in Spanish 1535 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Lima, 17 May (AFP) -- Jaime Cheneffusse, chairman of the Defense Committee of the Peruvian Senate, will request greater participation by the Army in the antiterrorist struggle which is being waged in the area of Ayacucho because police forces are proving to be insufficient and an alarmingly great number of their members have been tendering their resignations.

Senator Cheneffusse, after meeting with Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca, said that the Army must engage in the antiterrorist struggle in Ayacucho because the police forces are proving to be insufficient. After announcing that the defense committee will ask the National Defense Council and President Fernando Belaunde Terry for a broader Armed Forces involvement in the antiterrorist struggle, Cheneffusse said that it is alarming the way in which members of the police forces operating in the areas of the conflict have been resigning because of the psychological pressure of having to fight the combination of terrorists and drug traffickers.

Meanwhile, Alberto Asanego Illescas, a former mayor of Huacho, 90 km north of Lima, was found dead on Wednesday, presumably killed by terrorists who had threatened him in the past, the police reported.

In Callao, specialized police detachments defused four explosive devices placed on the fourth floor of the city hall and found eight packages of dynamite sticks elsewhere in the building.

For the second time this month, an attack on the powerplant of Comas district was aborted when a powerful explosive device was found and defused inside the building. On 7 May, several dynamite explosions severly damaged this power plant and destroyed two vehicles parked nearby. There were no casualties as a result of yesterday's two attacks. [as received].

SHINING PATH ACTIVE IN SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS

Renews Activity in Huanuco

PY171505 Paris AFP in Spanish 1026 GMT 16 May 84

[Text] Huanuco, 15 May (AFP) -- It was reported in Huanuco last night that after some months of an apparent withdrawal, Shining Path members have attacked policemen and police stations and executed two people. The first terrorist attack took place against the Central Civil Guard (uniformed police) station of Huariaca in Pasco Department, when a group of subversives attempted to occupy it. However, the opportune intervention of a patrol of the Eighth Civil Guard unit repealed the act. Neither victims nor material damages were reported.

The second attack against the Civil Guard occurred in Huamalies Province in Huanuco Department, when 15 hooded individuals blocked a highway and opened fire against a truck in which a second lieutenant and a civil guard were traveling to the capital of 2 de Mayo Province to collect the wages of Civil Guard personnel. The two policemen repealed the attack but the second lieutenant was injured.

For his part, Colonel Nelson Reategui, commander of the Eighth Civil Guard unit, has reported that a Shining Path group invaded the town of Mascatuna in Ambo province to try and execute Francisco Berrospido, 33, and decapitate Juan Santos, 29, at the town's main square and in the presence of the local residents.

Attacks in Huancayo, Ayacucho

PY181730 Lima Cadena Panamericana Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Today members of Shining Path carried out several attacks in Huancayo and Ayacucho on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the beginning of its subversive activities in the country. There were 10 attacks causing damage in Huancayo. Shining Path members also raised several flags with Shining Path inscriptions which were removed by the police.

Our correspondent in Ayacucho reports that fortunately Shining Path has not increased its actions in that city, but reports on a communique released by this organization, indicating that it will continue its actions until communism takes over power in our country.

Demands Met, Hostage Freed

PY182241 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1757 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Lima, 18 May (TELAM-DPA) -- Ilpidio Vargas, Radio Miraflores of Lima correspondent in Ayacucho, was kidnapped by guerrillas of the Shining Path Maoist group, and his freedom was exchanged for the broadcasting of a revolutionary proclamation by that radio station.

This event took place last night with the kidnapping of Vargas in Ayacucho, after which a message was forwarded to the radio station in Lima, giving the text of the proclamation and the reported demand.

The proclamation was read this morning, through which the rebels stated that on celebrating the fourth anniversary of our armed insurrection, we want to announce that we will continue the struggle against the current system, in the fields and in the cities.

Immediately after the broadcasting of the proclamation, Vargas was set free, while the authorities stated that it was a perfectly organized subversive operation despite the distance of approximately 575 km between the two Peruvian cities.

35 Peasants Killed in Ayacucho

PY191746 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0318 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Lima, 18 May (EFE) -- Police sources reported today that 35 peasants were slain by a group of 150 terrorists who attacked a town located in Apurimac Department.

The same sources stated that during the attack, which took place in the town of Pilcas, located 200 km south of Ayacucho, 25 persons were injured.

Police sources in Ayacucho heard the report of a person who claimed that he was wounded during the foray. This wounded person, whose name is Valerio Hosco, revealed that the subversives, presumed members of "Shining Path", carried out the killing after they subjected some of the men residing in that place, men who were charged with "tipping" the police, to a "town's judgment." Thereafter, the terrorists looted the houses.

It was also reported in Ayacucho today that "Shining Path" announced that "it will continue its armed struggle both in the fields and in the cities" in a message relayed by a Lima radio correspondent in Ayacucho.

PEASANTS SEIZE CUZCO MUNICIPALITY, UNIVERSITY

PY192130 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1708 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Lima, 19 May (EFE) -- Thousands of peasants of the Convencion and Lares agricultural zones in Cuzco Department, 1,000 km southeast of Lima, last night seized the municipality building and the San Antonio Abad University in the city of Cuzco, demanding that higher prices be paid for the coca and that the restrictions on coca cultivation be lifted.

The peasants, who have threatened to seize Cuzco officials, such as the prefect and the mayor, as hostages demand that the prohibition on cultivating coca be lifted. The cultivation of coca was replaced by other crops, like coffee, in order to prevent the proliferation of clandestine coca plantations that feed drug traffickers.

According to the reports on the peasant invasion received in Lima today, some 5,000 peasants may have invaded the city at the instigation of drug traffickers.

The meetings that peasants have held with Cuzco officials yielded no results because the officials have decisionmaking power.

The peasants demand that the company that handles the coca increase the price paid for each "arroba" [weight unit equivalent to 25 pounds] of legally grown coca leaves, which are used to produce cocaine base paste by maceration. The paste is further refined to obtain cocaine.

The peasants also ask that the coffee plantations of the area be declared in a state of emergency because, they claim, most of the plantations are affected by mildew and other plagues.

They also protest against the police action because, according to them, they "try to involve peasants in drug trafficking."

UNITED LEFT LEADER SCORES USSR ON OLYMPICS

PY181755 Lima Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0534 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The president of the IU (United Left), Alfonso Barrantes Lingan, has deplored the Soviet Union's attitude of not participating in the Los Angeles Olympic Games. Turning to another subject, Barrantes praised the democratic spirit of War Minister Oscar Brush who has said that the Armed Forces will respect and guarantee the results of the general elections in 1985.

GENERAL VARELA DISCUSSES POLITICAL SITUATION

PY190135 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] After the Army Day speech delivered this morning by General Washington Varela, politicians believe that the Armed Forces are adding a new concept to the negotiations with the political parties. The director of the Defense Intelligence Service asked whether there is any one who responsibly and honestly believes that it is possible to go abruptly from a de facto government to a state of law without suffering a collapse which seriously hinders and jeopardizes the operation of the elected government from its inception.

In reference to these remarks, Enrique Tarigo [Colorado Party representative] said at noon today to El Espectador that the Armed Forces may be trying to create a period of transition between the de facto government and the state of law.

In his speech, Gen Varela wondered whether parties actually want to engage in a dialogue or whether they intend to apply a dilatory strategy that will prevent the reaching of agreement before the date of the elections.

Gen Varela stressed that the military knows and feels that the Armed Forces must be subordinate to a civilian government, but that they should neither be forced to knuckle under nor used for objectives which do not have the people's support. In their barracks, which are their regular headquarters, they should not be ignored nor considered isolated from the situation that the country is experiencing, Gen Varela said.

He added that the Armed Forces regard as sabotage the decision of Blanco Party delegates to immediately publish the document submitted by the commanders in chief. Gen Varela, who did not mention the names of the Blanco delegates, wondered what the objective of their action might be, taking into account that they tried to have the document rejected.

Reporters from El Espectador, Radio Sport, and the Cadena de Oro asked Guillermo Garcia Costa, the Blanco Party delegate in the interparty talks, about this matter. Garcia Costa, who is also the president of the Blanco Party convention, answered that the military, because of their professional training, do not understand that publicity is essential for politics. Garcia Costa answered Varela's statement by saying that the military must not be subordinated to a civilian government but to the national sovereignty.

In his speech, Gen Varela referred to the events that have occurred since 1 May.

[Begin Varela recording] The proposal submitted to party leaders foresees temporary provisions to be included in the Constitution and to be either confirmed or changed by a constituent assembly that will be elected in the upcoming general elections. This proposal, which has thus taken into account the viewpoints expressed by parties during the Parque Hotel talks, has been submitted through a working document that is to be analyzed and debated without either impositions or preconditions.

It is a draft that is to be discussed, adjusted, and corrected, but not immediately ruled out as if it had been carelessly written or as if it were the product of an arrogant, unrealistic, and whimsical attitude and not the result of meditated and responsible work inspired by the search for understanding. This proposal was drawn up 10 months after the first attempt failed. During this period, the other party in the talks has submitted no proposals.

To our amazement, overlooking the fact that the successful outcome of the proposal called primarily for secrecy during the first stage of the debates, as was both expressly and tacitly requested, a sector purely and simply sabotaged it by immediately publishing it and by encouraging its rejection. What was and what is the objective of this action? What are they rejecting? They are rejecting temporary regulations and measures to cope with the emergencies and to be applied by the government to be elected by the people. These measures aim at overcoming a situation that is not normal. Therefore, they must be inevitably linked to the transition from such a situation to the new one, preventing sudden changes which would give rise to a chaotic confrontation of unpredictable consequences. Is there anyone who responsibly and honestly believes that it is possible to abruptly change from a de facto government to a state of law without suffering a collapse seriously hindering and jeopardizing the operation of the elected government from its inception?

It has been announced that a counterproposal will now follow. Is there actually an intention of engaging in a dialogue or is there an attempt to apply a dilatory strategy, which has been designed after an erroneous comparison with the situation prevailing in other countries, in order to prevent the reaching of agreement before the date of the elections? Is there an intention of placing the Armed Forces in a position that will awaken only distrust and lasting resentment, which would not be good for anyone and which may carry unpredictable consequences?

Nobody should have any doubt that we know and feel that the Armed Forces must be subordinate to a civilian government, but they should neither be forced to knuckle under nor used for objectives that do not have the people's support. In their barracks, which are their regular headquarters, they should not be ignored or considered isolated from the situation that the country is experiencing. Regardless of whether we are understood or whether we are right or wrong, we will just as strongly stress that from our commander in chief down to the last soldier we are intimately convinced that we have fulfilled our oath of serving the fatherland when it was collapsing and nobody else could save it.

We are confident that many of the statements and attitudes have been the expression of excitement or annoyance which are normal during a difficult period. Fortunately, experienced and calm voices have risen to appeal to civic responsibility, in the hope that patriotism and national greatness will finally prevail over sectarian or party interests. For the good of our nation, let it be so. [end recording]

Party Leaders React

PY191552 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] Enrique Tarigo, the Colorado Party delegate to the talks with the Armed Forces, has said that the military has now pointed to the main factor for a democratic exit. Commenting on the speech delivered by General Washington Varela, Tarigo, the leader of the Freedom and Change faction, said that a new element has been added now, namely, the creation of a transition period between the de facto government and the state of law.

[Begin Tarigo recording] I want to refer to the final part of Gen Varela's speech where he asked whether there is anyone who responsibly and honestly believes that it is possible to go abruptly from a de facto government to a state of law without suffering a collapse seriously hindering and jeopardizing the operation of the elected government from its beginning. This is a rhetorical question. It is an affirmation that nobody can reasonably deny the need for a transition from the de facto government to the state of law, a transition that should be either an intermediate stage, period, or a sort of bumper that should cushion the effects of passing from one stage into the other. In my opinion, this is purely and simply a confession that they do not want to introduce permanent changes in the Constitution, as has been said so many times on the grounds that the Constitution is ineffective in coping with certain sociopolitical situations. That is what they actually want, to create a transition period between the de facto government and the state of law.

If this idea is accepted, and I reiterate that this is the first time it has been suggested, this transition period should be very short because the country cannot wait for the restoration of democracy. I would say it should last at the most 6 months. [end recording]

For his part, National Party convention delegate Guillermo Garcia Costa said that there can be no secret pacts between parties and the Armed Forces. Parties should submit all initiatives to the consideration of the people, he added. This was Garcia Costa's answer to Gen Varela's charge that the proposal submitted on 1 May, which was immediately published, had been sabotaged. The Blanco leader also said that parties can by no means be said to have adopted a dilatory strategy in connection with the answer to the Armed Forces' proposal. Concerning the speech by Gen Varela, Garcia Costa said:

[Begin recording] [Garcia Costa] Look, we did not have time to read it, we just heard parts of it. We believe that the speech has reiterated well-known concepts that the military has repeated in recent speeches. It does not bring much that is new. It simply states, and we have been surprised at this statement, that the Blanco Party -- let us call a spade a spade, because he was referring to the Blanco Party when he alluded to a sector that published the military documents -- has made a serious mistake. But I understand the duties of a political part. Parties have to publicly report on all their attitudes.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr Garcia Costa, Gen Varela said that parties have adopted dilatory practices in connection with the answer to the military proposal to prevent the reaching of an agreement before the elections. What do you think about this remark?

[Garcia Costa] Well, I believe it is a completely wrong concept involving an absurd contradiction. This sort of remark can be attributed to someone who is in power and who wants to stay there. However, those who want to assume power for the benefit of the country may hardly be charged with attempting to delay their assumption of power.

[Reporter] Dr Garcia Costa, Gen Varela also said that the military must be subordinate to a civilian government but they should not be considered isolated from the situation that the country is experiencing.

[Garcia Costa] We support this idea. The subordination of the Armed Forces, which are a necessary institution, to a civilian government does not mean their isolation from the nation's life. [end recording]

HEAVY CRUDE PRICE INCREASED BY 63 CENTS

PA200129 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2226 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Caracas, 19 May (EFE) -- Energy and Mines Minister Arturo Hernandez Grisanti said today that Venezuela has decided to increase the price of heavy crude by an average of 63 cents. The price to date was $24.02 per barrel and will be $24.65 as of tomorrow. The minister said that the average price per barrel will be $24.40 for the rest of this year. Hernandez said that "in view of the many problems that Venezuela is facing at the present time, this increase will have a very positive effect." He added that Venezuela will now receive an additional $110 million, which does not solve the problems but can help to improve the situation. The decision affects approximately 780,000 barrels a day of varying prices and American Petroleum Institute degrees, making the increase an average of 63 cents per barrel. Hernandez also made reference to the Persian Gulf situation and said he hoped this "will not interrupt the oil shipments from the Gulf." "If there is a complete interruption of the flow, the dangers to the world economy would be difficult to foresee, but they would affect the recovery signs that the Western economies are experiencing," he said. He added that an eventual closing of the Gulf might immediately benefit the oil producers of other areas but would be detrimental for all in the long run. Hernandez explained that the price increase of heavy Venezuelan crude is not related to the crisis in the Gulf.

LUSINCHI CONGRATULATES DUARTE ON VICTORY

PA200056 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2230 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Caracas, 19 May (EFE) -- Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi today sent a message congratulating Salvadoran President-elect Napoleon Duarte in which he expresses the hope that the new government will "initiate an authentic process of national reconciliation." Lusinchi said in the name of the Venezuelan people and government that it is necessary that this process "have expression in the different sectors of the country and be promoted for the common purpose of overcoming the obstacles lying in the path of peace and harmony." Lusinchi added that we are confident that "under your mandate you will promote conditions to speed up economic and social progress for the benefit of all the Salvadoran people." Lusinchi also expressed hope for a strengthening of "pluralist democracy and respect for human rights in the framework of understanding and dialogue." The Venezuelan president's message ends by stating: "I will follow with great interest the development of this crucial stage in your country that is of unquestionable significance for the rest of Central America and for Latin America in general."

ESSEQUIBO RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE IDENTITY CARDS

PA180332 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0733 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpt] Caracas, 17 May (EFE) -- The Venezuelan Government will soon begin to deliver identification cards to all inhabitants of the territory of Essequibo, which is the center of a dispute with Guyana. According to official sources, Venezuela would use troops to support this activity if necessary. Yesterday, Public Registry Director Humberto Maio told Caracas newsmen that the Essequibo residents will be given identity cards after the municipal elections are held in Venezuela on 27 June. The official explained: "All citizens in the disputed territory will receive identity cards because if we claim the territory is Venezuelan we must issue identity cards to its residents." The official stressed that the action to be carried out by his office has the support of the Armed Forces, adding: "We have a plan for the entire area." He pointed out that, with this decision, the Venezuelan Government seeks to legalize a situation that already exists. Observers have said that the decision to give Venezuelan identity cards to the area's residents is the first effective step taken by Venezuela to actually recover its sovereignty over the disputed territory.

REAGAN 'RUDENESS,' 'AGGRESSIVE ATTITUDE' SCORED

PA181636 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 16 May 84 p 11

[Editorial: "Difficult Dealings With Reagan"]

[Text] The harsh exchange of speeches between Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid and his colleague Ronald Reagan clearly reveals once again the profound differences in their approach to a solution of the Central American crisis. Reagan, the host, spoke with rudeness and impatience ahout an alleged "totalitarian coalition" that has "undermined a democratic revolution in the region." He said that the USSR, Cuba, and Nicaragua are "totalitarians stoking the fire by sending weapons to promote tyranny and aggression." Leaving aside friendly euphemisms, Reagan asked De la Madrid to "work together to save lives and prevent more destruction by preventing military cooperation with the communists and other regressive regimes." It was reported privately that Reagan insisted that Mexico understand his position. One can undoubtedly presume that Reagan's urgings and warnings were even more explicit during the meeting that the two leaders held in the Oval Office.

However, Reagan's aggressive attitude did not take De la Madrid by surprise, because he bluntly asserted Mexico's demand for nonintervention in Central American affairs and its rejection of military solutions to economic, political, and social problems. Moreover, De la Madrid warned his host of the dangers of a generalized conflict and the unpredictable consequences it would have for all. He spoke about the seriousness and urgency of Central American problems, without separating them from the equally serious problems that Latin America is experiencing as a consequence of its public debts and the abusive and burdensome credit conditions. The Mexican president conveyed his message directly to the American public through the media. With dignity and conviction, De la Madrid faced the television viewers and told them that Mexico will not accept any pressure or conditions and that it is confident that the problems and differences in bilateral relations will be discussed maturely and respectfully by both governments. De la Madrid surely expressed this attitude and this message during his private talks with President Reagan, which the Mexican president himself conceded were the most difficult ever held by a Mexican president.

CAMPECHE STATE OFFERS REFUGE TO GUATEMALANS

FL170140 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1750 GMT 16 May 84

[Excerpt] Campeche, Mexico, 16 May (NOTIMEX) -- The State of Campeche is preparing to offer political asylum to the first 500 families of Guatemalan refugees, offering them lodging and guaranteeing their safety far from the southern border, Governor Eugenio Echeverria Castellot has announced.

The Guatemalan families will be arriving from Palenque, in neighboring Chiapas State, and will be assigned to the area known as Pennsylvania in the municipality of Champoton, Campeche State, on the southeast border of the Mexican Republic, he said.

TRIBUNAL MAKES ARDITO VICTORY OFFICIAL

PA202240 Panama City RPC Radio in Spanish 2218 GMT 20 May 84

[Live relay by reporter Julio Miller, from the Electoral Tribunal]

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal a few minutes ago issued a communique signed by Magistrates Cesar Quintero, president, Rolando Murgas Torraza, vice president, Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, member, and Everardo Tomlinson, secretary general. The communique say:

It is evident that the figures reported after the 6 May 1984 vote-counting process are not subject to modification because they reflect the final results of the 6 May 1984 presidential and vice presidential elections. Therefore, the Electoral Tribunal, exerting its constitutional and legal purviews, decrees the official proclamation of Dr Nicolas Ardito Barletta as president-elect of the Republic, Eric Arturo del Valle, first vice president, and Dr Roderick Esquivel, second vice president.

The Electoral Tribunal orders that the corresponding credentials to be issued as determined by law.

Issued in Panama City, 20 May 1984. To be published and put into effect.

DE LA MADRID CONGRATULATES ARDITO BARLETTA

PA180440 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2043 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Mexico City, 17 May (EFE) — Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid sent a message to Nicolas Ardito Barletta today, congratulating him on his victory in Panama's presidential elections.

On behalf of the Mexican people and government, De la Madrid told the future Panamanian president that his administration hopes for even closer ties between the two Latin American nations. In addition, the Mexican president noted his hope that, with Ardito Barletta as Panama's president, the Contadora Group's efforts to secure peace in Central America will continue. De la Madrid also wished the Panamanian president-elect success during his tenure, which will begin in October of this year.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TO ANNOUNCE CABINET, TRAVEL

July Announcement

PA201630 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2123 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (DPA) -- Panamanian President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta will announce his cabinet in July, a spokesman for the National Democratic Union (UNADE), which launched the candidacy of the 46-year-old economist, former vice president of the World Bank, and former planning minister, has announced.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Opposition Alliance has challenged the results given by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, alleging fraud in the 6 May elections,the first held in Panama in the past 16 years. The figures announced are 300,748 votes for Barletta and 299,035 for the opposition candidate, Arnulfo Arias Madrid, who has been president of Panama three times. Ardito Barletta reiterated in an official statement today that he needs the participation of all Panamanians for his government of national unity.

To Visit C.A. Countries

PA201540 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2356 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Panama City, 18 May (DPA) -- Panamanian President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barietta will go on a tour of five Central American countries this June, a spokesman for the National Democratic Union (UNADE), which launched Ardito Barletta's candidacy, has announced. It was indicated that Ardito Barletta will visit Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Belize, El Salvador, and Guatemala and will meet with the head of state in each country.

It was also learned that Ardito Barletta will begin a series of meetings with a working team this coming week. Ardito Barletta, who won by a margin of 1,713 votes over his rival Arnulfo Arias (300,748 to 299,035 votes), will succeed President Jorge Illueca on 11 October.

PRESIDENT-ELECT SPEAKS TO THE NATION

PA210029 Panama City Radio Exitosa in Spanish 2331 GMT 20 May 84

[President-elect Nicolas Ardito Barletta interviewed by Radio Exitosa general manager Aria de Icaza -- live via telephone]

[Text] [De Icaza] Welcome, Dr Ardito Barletta. We would like to hear, in your own words, your first message to Panama. This interview will be broadcast immediately afterward, to Chicago, New York, and other parts of the northern and southern United States.

[Ardito] We reitereate the pledge we made to the country, to the Panamanians, to history, to serve our homeland in these difficult moments. We reiterate the call issued during these past 10 days, that our fervent wish is to have a government of national reconciliation which allows us to work together, which allows us to inspire the best feelings in the Panamanians during this difficult economic situation, which has grave social consequences -- so that we may all strengthen the democracy for which we have worked and solve our people's problems.

[De Icaza] Dr Ardito Barletta, we have just established contact with our colleague radio station in the United States. They have told us that the White House press secretary was trying to announce [as heard] if the news that you had been confirmed as president of the country was official. What is your message for the Latin American listeners in Miami, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles -- where they will be hearing this broadcast in a short time -- and for the Latin American communities in the United States?

[Ardito] A warm and respectful greeting to all the Latin Americans living in the United States and to all the U.S. citizens of Latin American origin, reminding them that Panamanians have great affection for them and that we have great relations with their country -- which we want to maintain and develop for the benefit of all. We hope that they will maintain close contacts with Panama, because the Panamanian people's most fervent hope is to develop our economic, commercial, cultural, and social activities with them in the future.

[De Icaza] Dr Ardito Barletta, the school year starts tomorrow in this country, and the unknown has been cleared, because it has been officially announced that you are the winner, the new president of the country.

Logically, we want you to send a message to the students -- who are the country's future. Our youths start tomorrow a new year in schoolrooms throughout the country. We would like to hear your first message to the country's youths.

[Ardito] Of course. I am greatly pleased to see that the Panamanian youths will return to schoolrooms to continue developing their mental and physical talents, preparing for Panama's future, which is our future. I remind them that we said during our campaign that the youths' welfare would be one of our priorities. We now reiterate this priority, because we have faith in the Panamanian youths, in their capacity for development and participation, and because we will always dedicate our efforts to hearing their problems and needs. We send a cordial greeting to all students, reminding them that the pledge we made during the campaign will be fulfilled in the presidency, because we have faith in them, and we want to dedicate our efforts to their development, so that they join in our own efforts for the nation's welfare.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL MEMBERS DISCUSS ISSUES

President Denies Resignation

PA181427 Panama City YA in Spanish 18 May 84 pp 1-2

[Text] Dr Cesar Quintero, president of the Electoral Tribunal, yesterday denied reports of his resignation.

Quintero was approached by reporters in the afternoon as he arrived at his office, concerning insistent rumors about his resignation.

"I have not resigned," he said categorically to the reporters. "The problem is that at one time I considered that possibility," which gave the impression that I would quit the post, the noted constitutionalist explained. "However, I am not going to resign," he affirmed. Quintero said that persons from the official sector had asked him not to resign, as it would create uncertainty concerning the recent electoral process, which could lead the country to chaos. The president of the Electoral Tribunal also said he was determined to resolve all challenges to the elections for president and legislators.

Asked about the challenge of Circuit 4-4 (Chiriqui), Dr Quintero, without giving details, said that it was something normal in an entity such as the Electoral Tribunal.

At the end of the brief interview with the press, Quintero noted that as a Panamanian he places the nation's welfare about any other consideration.

On Counting Board, Challenges

PA181521 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 May 84 p 1A

[Report by Franklin Bosquez D'Giovanni]

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal has resolved the numberous challenges filed -- including that of the Indian sector of Chiriqui -- "without counting or computing" the tally sheets objected to by the opposition.

This exclusive information was provided to LA PRENSA by Magistrate Cesar A. Quintero, president of the Electoral Tibunal, who explained that his colleagues Rolando Murgas and Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez "had a valid legal basis" for rejecting a motion to annul the votes cast in Electoral Circuit 4-4, the Indian sector that comprises the Districts of Tole, San Felix, Remedios, and San Lorenzo.

"The decision is legally valid, but irregularities have been charged in those Indian zones, and if the irregularities charged are true and are proven, the results of these challenges would change the result of the elections," Quintero admitted.

According to the presiding magistrate, "I have been unable to detect" the irregularities because personally "I have not computed anything. It would be practically impossible for us (the magistrates) to be able to compute a large number of tally sheets."

Furthermore, according to Quintero, he has been calling the Electoral Organization (Directorate) so he can take a look at the tally sheet prepared by the Vote Counting Board of Circuit 4-4 to see what its contents are.

The "round numbers," all multiples of 10, given for this Indian circuit caught the eye of Quintero, who has been president of the National Lawyers Association on two occasions. "I just got an explanation: A German technician, who has been here for some time now and who worked with those data for UNADE [National Democratic Union], explained to me that these were imaginary figures used so the computer could function, and they could put in the data they wanted."

"Personally I have been unable to detect anything, however, for the simple reason that I have not counted anything," Quintero stressed.

When LA PRENSA asked how it was possible that, faced with such an important development as the direct election of the Panamanian president after 16 years, the three magistrates had been unable to work in the vote counting process, Quintero answered that "it is not easy. Look how long it took us to count the 312 tally sheets from San Miguelito, and that is only 1 circuit."

LA PRENSA insisted on this question, and Dr Quintero answered: "I do not dare individually [as published] because do not forget that I am merely a magistrate in a tribunal composed of three. I am president merely for coordination purposes. My vote is worth just as much as that of either of the other magistrates; my opinion is worth just as much as that of the others. My role as president of this Tribunal is merely for purposes of administrative coordination, no more."

The jurist added that the 64 tally sheets of Circuit 4-4 were not counted because "on the one hand, it is the function of the respective circuit board, and on the other, it should have been checked by the National Vote Counting Board, which in 8 days did nothing."

"We would not have been able to check the 3,902 voting places," he added.

When asked if it was worth having the Electoral Tribunal engage in counting, Quintero answered that "everything is worthwhile." However, he explained that in view of the present structure of the organization, which has so many things to do and a municipal election to organize, "if we now begin counting one by one the tally sheets that will appear, which perhaps will be correct...for instance the data about the round numbers that appeared here is not included in those tally sheets...that is what I have been told."

"I have been asking for the tally sheets today, but I have been unable to bring them over because there is a huge number of them," he said.

When LA PRENSA asked him to say specifically whether the challenges had been resolved without first checking the tally sheets, Quintero answered that the Electoral Tribunal takes action only in the field within its purview, which in this case concerns the challenges.

"I repeat that it is not the normal function of this tribunal to compute tally sheets or proclaim winners. That is not its normal function. This honor of somewhat dubious merit and this very unpleasant function has fallen to it under special circumstances."

Quintero admitted that "the ideal thing would be to look into all that. But the Electoral Tribunal is physically unable to do this: It is impossible for it to check these things. The ideal thing would have been to have checked those tally sheets, but do not forget that challenges have been filed not only for Circuit 4-4; challenges have been filed in almost all of the country's circuits. The Electoral Tribunal could not do it."

Concerning the fact that one of the candidates got the presidency of the Republic by a margin of less than 2,000 votes, Quintero said that when the elections are "completely honest," they can be won by just one vote. "I have no reason to say that these elections were dishonest. That is why I dissented, expressing an opinion contrary to the decision made by the majority. It is because of that doubt that I expressed a dissenting opinion."

Asked how he would feel if, after the president-elect is proclaimed, he realized that the challenges had been valid and well founded, Quintero answered: "That happens in the legal world. Sometimes an innocent individual is sentenced and only later it is learned that he is really innocent. And what is to be done? That, however, would be regrettable."

According to Quintero, the ideal thing would be for each tally sheet to be "reexamined" "by people who deserve credibility -- if indeed there are any such people in this country."

The so-called "lawyers' teacher" admitted that he is not happy over the charges that have been confirmed, as in the case of the forged blank credentials and the ballots of several UNADE parties which were marked beforehand to favor certain candidates.

On Division, Abstention

PA182334 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 May 84

[Electoral Tribunal Magistrates Rolando Murgas and Cesar Quintero interviewed by unidentified reporter; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] Electoral Tribunal magistrates have denied there exists division among them. Dr Rolando Murgas referred to the adoption of a decision as follows:

[Begin recording] [Murgas] Any decision is vulnerable and subject to criticism and evaluations -- even the magistrates' personal lives are criticized. However, our historic and civic duty is to fulfill our responsibilities and adopt the correct decision.

We have encountered attempts to create internal division within the tribunal -- though threats, pressures, and even psychological blackmail -- to undermine the strength and credibility of its actions. That goal has yet to be achieved, and we believe that we must fulfill our duty to the homeland by firmly and honorably stating or deciding what must be said or decided at this Electoral Tribunal.

[Reporter] Dr Murgas, following this line of thought, is an Electoral Tribunal magistrate allowed to abstain from voting?

[Murgas] This is something quite normal, and any magistrate can exert his right, because this is part of his intimate being and his conscience. In addition, all the other magistrates must respect this decision to abstain from voting. However, it is important to bear in mind that one cannot play with, precipitate, or misconstrue this decision to abstain from voting. The decision to abstain from voting takes place every week, every month at the tribunals, which are comprised of more than one judge -- there are several magistrates.

This has also taken place at the Electoral Tribunal, when Doctor Cesar Quintero abstained from voting. I have known and respected him since I was a student, and I respect him even more now as his colleague at the Electoral Tribunal. His abstention does not represent in any way an offense or an attempt to undermine the other two magistrates' dignity. [end recording]

In addition, Dr Cesar Quintero referred to his abstention as follows: [Begin recording] [Quintero] No, no. This is just another act in my life. It is not a significant act.

[Reporter] Dr Quintero, has this created some kind of division, disagreement, or misunderstanding among the magistrates?

[Quintero] No, no, absolutely not. This is not the first time that I have abstained from voting here. I have abstained on many other occasions; this is something quite normal at the tribunals; this is a common practice. [end recording]

On Municipal Elections

PA201612 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1700 GMT 19 May 84

[Interviews with Electoral Tribunal Magistrates Rolando Murgas and Cesar Quintero]

[Excerpts] Magistrate Rolando Murgas, vice president of the Electoral Tribunal, today said that the 3 June municipal elections are important and will be carried out according to schedule.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter -- in progress]...work regarding the challenges and decisions, and should also be working and preparing for the upcoming municipal elections on Sunday, 3 June. How is the Electoral Tribunal preparing for this?

[Murgas] To be frank, the delays and complications that arose during the vote-counting process, above all the fact that the final and decisive phase fell on the Electoral Tribunal, has cost us important time that should have been devoted to the organization of the 3 June elections. Nevertheless, we have been working on this all along, and we can tell the people that the Electoral Tribunal has not lowered its guard regarding those elections, and that they will be held according to schedule. [end recording]

[Electoral Tribunal President Cesar] Quintero also referred to these elections. He said:

[Begin recording] [Quintero, in progress] ...and we have the municipal elections which, although they are not as important as the national elections, are nevertheless important. They are important because the municipalities have a great.... [changes thought] The corregimientos are the basis of our country's structure. Therefore, all this plays an important role.

[Unidentified reporter] Would the 3 June elections be valid even if most Panamanians abstain from voting?

[Quintero] They would be valid regardless of the number of people who vote. There are countries where only 30 percent of the voters actually vote. I am talking about countries with a democratic tradition, like Colombia. There have been elections where only 30 percent of the voters voted. In the United States sometimes only 40 percent of the people vote, and that country has a very democratic tradition.

The validity of an election is not determined by the number of people who vote. [end recording]

LA PRENSA SCORES ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL DECISION

PA180437 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 May 84 P 1

[Editorial: "He Who Counts Elects"]

[Text] Confirming the cynical adage that he who counts elects, the Electoral Tribunal has declared the government candidate the president-elect of the Republic, rejecting, for alleged reasons of form, all of the challenges that had been filed against the cases of fraud and irregularities that affected the electoral results at various voting tables in many circuits.

What the magistrates have done is to close their eyes and turn a deaf ear to all evidence and arguments that might dissuade them from their previously made decision to use the procedure that inevitably would produce the proclamation of the UNADE [National Democratic Union] candidate as president-elect. It is unquestionable that adding up to electoral circuit tallies, which in many cases do not faithfully reflect the results of all of the voting tables in the respective circuits and which, therefore, had been challenged, would give the victory to the official candidate, because fraud had already been committed in them. That elemental mathematical task, without passing judgment on the authenticity of the figures, is merely a computation and can never be characterized as a real count, which necessarily means to investigate, examine, and scrutinize the authenticity and exactness of what is being counted.

What should have been done, what had to be done so that the electoral results would be credible, would have been an examination of each and every tally of the voting tables in dispute, comparing them with the tallies from the respective circuits. If they agreed, no one could question the result. In those cases in which the figures differed, a conscientious investigation should have been carried out to determine the causes and to correct the omissions and errors until a trustworthy electoral result could be established with precision. When the challenges were due to questions of form, the procedural means established by the Electoral Code to decide them were clear.

None of this was done, simply because if it had been done, the electoral results would have been very different from those that today are being proclaimed as the product of the Panamanian people's will. Furthermore, the open partiality revealed by the Electoral Tribunal, which failed seriously to fulfill its constitutional and legal duties, provides a greater foundation for the many charges of irregularities and manipulation in the electoral organization phase, prior to the elections, in which everything was carefully set up to reduce the opposition's electoral chances. There was fraud before, during, and after the elections, and the Electoral Tribunal, which could have done a great deal to prevent it, instead dedicated itself to concealing it and yesterday endorsed its results.

However, the necessary generalization does not do justice to one of the magistrates on the Electoral Tribunal, its president, who, with exemplary courage and integrity, abstained from voting because he believes that the results, which served as the basis for his colleagues to proclaim the alleged president-elect, could have been different had the case of Circuit 4-4 been examined. The results in Circuit 4-4 were justly challenged by the opposition because one of the most scandalous and flagrant frauds in the country's electoral history was committed there.

The way things stand, the elections have served no positive purpose. However, they have rendered the deep resentments and frustrations that disturb the national soul even worse, dangerously placing us on the brink of chaos. Not even those who were favored by the Electoral Tribunal's partiality can enjoy their undeserved victory. They already had power, through the forces of weapons. They only needed legitimacy and they will certainly not obtain it from the decision of a tribunal that docilely gives in to government pressure. Just like his immediate predecessors, Nicolas Ardito Barletta will be the president by the decision of the military men, as reflected in the decision of the tribunal, but he will never be president as a result of the will of the Panamanian people.

FURTHER ON REACTIONS TO ARDITO VICTORY

Arias Manifesto to People

PA201906 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 84 p 1A

[Text] Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid, president of the Authentic Panamenist Party, has stated in a manifesto to the people that "we are at an hour of the national life that demands a supreme historic decision.

"The people elected us. The present and future of the homeland lies in their hands," Dr Arias stated.

The communique noted that "with the serenity granted us by responding to the call of our fellow citizens to head a crusade against the forceful regime that has oppressed the country since October 1978, a crusade directed at reestablishing democracy and justice in this, our homeland, we are in a position to declare that, before the honest conscience of the immense majority of our fellow citizens, we hold the dignity [ostentamos la dignidad] of the presidency of the Republic by the sovereign will of the people as expressed in the 6 May elections."

"Those who, availing themselves of electoral schemes, have distorted the results of the elections; those who out of cowardice have yielded to the pressures and threats; those who, showing that they despise justice, have turned their backs on the rights and hopes of all the people to regain their liberty and to be the supreme rectors of their destiny; and all those who have contributed with the electoral fraud to dashing the hopes for a better future will have to answer for this crime of treason before God, the source of all justice; before the people; and before the supreme tribunal of history."

"The fatherland is eternal and -- above the economic and spiritual miseries that can trap those who only think of the fatherland as a field for the pursuit of their selfish vested interests -- it will emerge one day free and sovereign through the liberating effort of its good sons," the manifesto concluded.

ADO Says It Won

PA182200 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 May 84 p 1A

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party and second vice presidential candidate for the ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance] told LA PRENSA that "the Electoral Tribunal cannot proclaim the alleged victory of the official candidate without committing another fraud itself."

Arias said: "In fact, the Electoral Tribunal's spokesperson said that the organization rejected all challenges involving voting precincts as being unwarranted. As a logical result of this, the tribunal must then add 900 votes from Boca del Toro, 1,400 from Colon, and 850 from Chiriqui, that is a minimum of 3,150 votes from those 3 Provinces, for the ticket headed by Dr Arnulfo Arias."

He added: "Those votes actually were not added to Dr Arnulfo Arias's ticket on the tally sheets because the corresponding voting precints had been contested. Therefore, the 3,150 votes were not taken into consideration by the National Vote Counting Board or the Electoral Tribunal itself in coming up with the totals announced.

"Given that the tribunal has rejected all challenges, it must also modify its own calculations and acknowledge the victory of Dr Arnulfo Arias."

Arias Calderon concluded by saying that: "Othersise, the tribunal would be committing a fraud itself, in addition to the fraud already committed by the UNADE [National Democratic Union].

Arias Calderon On Vote Count

PA202120 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 84 p 1A

[Text] In a note addressed to the president of the Electoral Tribunal, Ricardo Arias Calderon has stressed that the proclamation of the president- and vice presidents-elect cannot be made without previously counting the voting results of all polling booths. We stress, said Arias, that the Electoral Tribunal has admitted through its president that the votes appearing on the voting records that have been contested have been neither tabulated nor counted.

This is shown in the following analysis:

1. The first tally corresponds to 3,628 polling booths (93 percent of the total), which completely excludes the polling booths of the San Blas Indian territory and the Indian area in Chiriqui, where UNADE [National Democratic Union] perpetrated the worst frauds in these elections. Arnulfo Arias won according to this tally.

ADO [Democratic Opposition Alliance]	313,866 Votes
UNADE	297,709
Difference	16,158 [as published]

2. The second tally corresponds to 3,745 polling booths (96 percent of the total). It includes the information we have on the polling booths in the San Blas Indian territory and the Indian area in Chiriqui, despite the frauds UNADE committed in this area. The results of this tally confirm Arias' victory.

ADO	315,982 Votes
UNADE	309,630
Difference	6,352

3. The third tally corresponds to 3,890 polling booths (99.69 percent of the total). This includes information on 145 additional polling booths taken from figures published by UNADE, even though these figures have reflected a systematic tendency to cover up frauds in favor of the official candidate. The result of this fraud [as published] also confirms Arias' victory.

ADO	321,827 Votes
UNADE	319,434
Difference	2,393

We should add, Arias says, that the remaining 12 polling booths, on which nobody has any information, represent a maximum of 1,241 [potential] votes, according to the Electoral Tribunal. Assuming that all these electors were able to vote and that all voted for the official candidate, Arias would still win.

Arias Calderon said: "To make a proclamation without taking into consideration the votes cast in the challenged tally sheets, appeals of annulment for which you yourselves rejected, means that you have violated the Electoral Code and flouted the people's will as reflected by the country's tally sheets."

We hereby request that the votes from the tally sheets that were not considered in the circuit electoral boards by added up because, otherwise, the vote counting carried out includes a mathematical error, Arias Calderon added.

Opposition To Demonstrate

PA191451 Panama City YA in Spanish 19 May 84 p 1

[Text] Last minute report: Members of the Democratic Opposition Alliance staged a large demonstration last night at 2000 before the offices of the Electoral Tribunal, during which slogans against the electoral fraud and the tally-sheet coup [actazo] were shouted.

The demonstrators carried flags of the Authentic Panamenist Party and the Christian Democratic Party. They have scheduled a new demonstration for today at 1500 in front of the Electoral Tribunal. This is a program of peaceful resistance to achieve recognition of the electoral victory of Arnulfo Arias, Carlos Rodriguez, and Ricardo Arias Calderon.

Opposition Organizes Committee

PA191610 Panama City YA in Spanish 19 May 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] Members of the opposition are organizing a National Civic Committee Against Fraud [Comite Civico Nacional Contra el Fraude] for the chief purpose of rescuing electoral justice, which was violated during the recent presidential elections.

According to reports, the committee will be composed of doctors, teachers, students, workers, peasants, and all other Panamanians who are aware of the state of anarchy our country is experiencing.

One of the organizers said that the committee will remain active until it is determined who obtained an honest victory from a legal standpoint. Members of the movement have said that one of the first activities organized by the committee is a large demonstration that has been scheduled for Monday, 21 May, at 1500, starting at Don Bosco Church.

PAPO Manifesto Denounces Fraud

PA190328 Panama City YA in Spanish 18 May 84 p 3

[Popular Action Party manifesto dated 16 May]

[Text] We of the Popular Action Party [PAPO] regret to report that all our forecasts on the country's political future have been fulfilled. We had warned that the struggle for power would be fruitless and unsafe without first achieving democracy. We had advocated a national constituent assembly to draft a democratic and respectable constitution by all Panamanians, but all political sectors withheld the support that would have determined the constitution's reality. We opposed the constitutional amendments because they were not aimed at democratizing the country but at introducing confusion and cooling the growing popular opposition to the current regime. We stressed that, contrary to what its defenders maintained, the military regime had consolidated itself with these amendments.

At the proper moment we denounced the fact that the Electoral Tribunal's structure and membership did not guarantee impartiality in the elections. In the midst of a campaign to purify this organization, which was fundamental for the purity of elections, our party suffered all kinds of abuses and, worse, the tribunal magistrates received expressions of faith and adhesion from other opposition parties.

At the beginning of the elctoral process we endeavored to watch it carefully.

We denounce the Tinajitas [Tigres de Tinajita Company] dictatorship as opposing legal regulations and political morals.

We denounce the intervention of the military in the birth and development of this dictatorship.

We denounce before the Electoral Tribunal electoral crimes such as the use of state property for the benefit of the official candidate and abuses against the public workers.

We denounce the evidently fraudulent procedures utilized in the drafting of voting registers, because they were prepared to facilitate fraud.

We denounce the Electoral Tribunal for its complicity in the perpetration of electoral crimes.

At the proper moment we told the nation that the rules of the electoral game had been marked by falsehood. Before university students, our party's president urged the Electoral Tribunal to correct the criminal disposition of the national government during the electoral process.

In a document sent to the nation's president, we pointed out all the irregularities in the electoral campaign. We also indicated that, far from being corrected, these irregularities were being multiplied in a blatant display of arrogance and political immorality.

We denounce the corrupt political practices that led large sectors of Panamanian society to think that the electoral process should be taken advantage of, to sell their consciences and receive privileges, money, liquor, and other equally disparaging forms of political behavior as payment.

As the electoral process proceeded, our party took every available opportunity to confirm that the specter of fraud presided over the national political panorama.

Our party saw with surprise that other opposition sectors persisted in their efforts to hold dialogues with the armed forces, that is to say, the forces that sponsored fraud.

Our denunciations were without political support and were not investigated. The tendency of some to announce their victory prematurely and the loathsome impunity of others made possible the fulfillment of the most terrible of our forecasts, which we announced in February of this year. We suggested that "this entire electoral process responds to a farce, and we are being cynically led to the slaughterhouse of fraud."

In addition to the fraud, and as a punishment for our worthy and clear behavior, we were threatened with the elimination of our legal status. We do not entertain the slightest doubt that this threat has been fulfilled.

Today the fraud has been consummated. The Electoral Tribunal, in collusion with the National Vote Counting Board, granted credentials to the beneficiary of the fraud, despite the fact that our party introduced an appeal for annulment. PAPO's board members Teodosio Bernal and Roberto Arosemena opposed the collusion and, with their behavior in the sessions of the National Vote Counting Board, safeguarded the honor of our party and the nation.

In view of the fulfillment of all these forecasts and the official scorn of the will of most of our people, PAPO condemns the immoral behavior of those responsible for the fraud and announces its determination to continue struggling with honest Panamanians to achieve a decent society and a democratic government. Therefore, a civic and peaceful struggle is imperative. It will lead us, first of all, to consideration of the will of the majority of Panamanian voters.

If the brute force that has prevailed in Panama since 1968 bloodily tramples upon a civil protest, there still remains, under the circumstances, the opportunity to struggle for a constituent assembly that will give us democratic, worthy institutions to guarantee the civilized coexistence of all Panamanians.

PAPO reiterates its protest for the consummation of all the electoral crimes, for the triumph of immorality over decency. Similarly, PAPO hereby states its repudiation of the criminal behavior of those who carried out the fraud, as well as those who benefited from it.

Panama, 16 May 1984

Popular Action Party, PAPO.

PFNP Issues Communique

PA182344 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 17 May 84 p 16

["Communique to the Nation" dated 16 May; capitalized passages as published]

[Text] THE PEOPLES FEDERAL NATIONALIST PARTY (PFNP), WHEREAS:

Presidential and legislative elections were held normally and peacefully in the country on 6 May 1984 in order to democratically elect a new president and the members of a LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY established through amendments made to the national Constitution as a result of a plebiscite held in 1983;

When NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA was nominated presidential condidate for the NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (UNADE) and ERIC ARTURO DEL VALLE and RODERICK ESQUIVEL were nominated first and second vice presidential candidates, respectively, the PFNP issued a SPECIAL COMMUNIQUE that was published in the social communications media declaring our "firm and unconditional support" for the candidacy of NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA;

That the "firm and unconditional support" for the presidential candidacy of NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA by our PFNP was expressed with the participation of its members in the provincial rallies held by the UNADE; especially the one held on 4 May 1984 at the 5 May Plaza of Panama City;

That the public and televised tally of all 40 ELECTORAL CIRCUIT MINUTES into which the country was divided held by the NATIONAL VOTE COUNTING BOARD at the Justo Arosemena Legislative Palace in Panama City resulted in the indisputable and irrefutable victory of NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA by mandate of the SOVEREIGN WILL OF THE PEOPLE;

Therefore, proudly RECOGNIZES NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA as president-elect of Panama and ERIC ARTURO DEL VALLE and RODERICK ESQUIVEL as first and second vice presidents, respectively, by the inalienable and inexorable mandate of the will of the Panamanian people;

REAFFIRMS to President-elect NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA the firm and unconditional support of the PFNP for his presidential term that begins on 11 October 1984 and to wish him success in its fulfillment;

TO SEND the original of this COMMUNIQUE to the president-elect of all Panamanians, NICOLAS ARDITO BARLETTA, with copies of the UNADE and to the social communications media in the country;

Signed: HONORIO QUESADA M., party president

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE URGES PRUDENT GOVERNMENT

PA182355 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 18 May 84 p A 7

[Panama Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture communique dated 16 May]

[Text] The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture has been consistent, since it's founding in 1915, in promoting the existence in Panama of a system of democratic institutions that will guarantee coexistence and protect the lives and property of the people.

All Panamanians must assume responsible and conscientious attitudes that will strengthen our institutions to provide the conditions necessary for tranquillity and peace to exist in our country. If public power is exercised according to the Constitution and laws, with inspiration and patriotic purpose, it will promote an atmosphere of confidence and work that will improve the quality of life of every Panamanian.

The Panamanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture urges the authorities to seriously think its actions through and to make a firm determination to respond to the legitimate interests of the people, which were voluntarily and peacefully expressed in the ballot boxes, in order to carry the country forward on a path of progress and welfare.

Joaquin J. Vallarino III, president.

CHURCH COMMENTATOR WANTS VIOLENCE INVESTIGATED

PA191418 Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 May 84

["Reflections" program commentary by Father Fernando Guardia Jaen: "No to Violence"]

[Excerpts] On 6 May we were all witnesses to the elections held in the country. Thousands upon thousands of Panamanians cast their votes to choose a president and legislators who will lead the executive and legislative branches during the years 1984-1989. The day passed in apparent tranquillity throughout the country, but once the elections ended the tranquillity ended, strategies and counterforces began to impose by dirty tricks results other than those of the election data. On Monday [7 May], Panama turned out to be just another banana republic.

In the face of the violence experienced on 7 May, I cannot remain silent. It has taken me some time to speak of this, but it was because I was waiting to see what was going to happen. The truth is that even today we do not know the results of the elections, because all we have heard is a communique and nothing more; another early morning raid [madrugonazo] in this country. I really feel that we have experienced another coup d'etat.

In the face of this Panamanian reality we have to try to discern what is happening, and we have to shed some light on what is happening. I do this at my own risk.

We heard our archbishop's message with love, and I tried to reflect on it during one of my "Reflections" programs. I dedicated a whole program to that message because it shed a great light which helped discern the situation. In that message the archbishop said we cannot ignore the fact that one person died at the Legislative Palace, and that the matter must be investigated and the guilty party found. The archbishop in his message also said that the votes cast should be counted objectively for all Panamanians to be satisfied with the count. That message from the archbishop was distributed to be read in all the churches on Sunday. On the Friday before the message was read, the National Vote Counting Board surprised us by declaring itself incompetent and passing the matter over to the Electoral Tribunal.

This is the problem that we have to discern and shed a light on. I say this because the archbishop's message was sent to the media before Friday afternoon; therefore, it had to be drafted before Friday afternoon and was not made public until Sunday, after Friday night's incident had occurred. Therefore, the archbishop's message could not address a situation that happened after it had been drafted, even though the message was made public after the Electoral Tribunal incident occurred.

It will therefore be necessary to consider whether the National Vote Counting Board's decision is the biggest fraud [paquetazo] in this country's history. I think that in this country we cannot accept this type of incident. We believe in morality. We believe in the political future of Panama because we believe in peace. I am a Quixote for peace, and for this reason during this program I am going to speak particularly about the violence unleashed on Monday, 7 May, and I want to charge that it was a real death squad that went out on the streets on 7 May. This was not by chance or spontaneous. It was not a street quarrel during which someone fired a shot and one death resulted. This was a premeditated incident.

The church rejects terrorist and guerrilla violence, which becomes cruel and uncontrollable when it is unleashed.

Crime can never be justified as a path to liberation. Violence only generates new ways of oppression and slavery and consequences much more serious than those one is attempting to correct. We must also stress that when an ideology appeals to violence it is recognizing its own weakness.

We cannot accept violence, and we reject it as anti-Christian and anti-evangelical. Who caused this violence? We have to find out. There are witnesses who know where the violence came from. Much is known, and therefore it cannot be said that no one knows what happened. It is therefore necessary to reject violence, and I cannot accept violence as an imposition; I cannot accept demonstrations to scare the people with killers, Panamanian gansters who are known in the history of this country. All this country needs to advance is for us to live in peace. In 1984 we cannot go back to those methods that have never brought about justice, truth, or the political progress or maturity of the people. As a Panamanian I reject violence. As a priest I reject violence. It is necessary to demand of the authorities that those who use the violence of brother against brother be punished, as well as those who ordered that violence.

DEFENSE FORCES SCORED FOR ELECTORAL ROLE

PA190223 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 May 84 p 1A

[Text] The antidemocratic procedures used by the commanders of the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama throughout the current electoral event have destroyed the last vestiges of civility prevailing in the country, after almost 16 years of their pernicious dictatorial influence. These officers have failed to show any scruples in involving their rank and file in a clumsy adventure which diminishes even more the Panamanian military corps' deteriorated prestige, thus evidencing a lack of historical awareness and proving that absolute power is intoxicating.

The sectors which comprise the nation's vital nuclei -- including the Defense Forces of the Republic of Panama -- for the unpostponable reconstruction of the Republic require a collective stability and understanding that allows our institutional system -- on which they depend -- to operate with efficiency and honesty derived of unquestionable morals. The act of poisoning the waters that quench the thirst of justice, which is traditionally felt by peoples who are oppressed by brute force, represents a clumsy act of stupidity that always ends up poisoning those who -- encouraged by powerful criminal impulses -- consider themselves immune to the irresponsible negative consequences of their own clumsiness.

Regarding the shameful case of our recent electoral event, the top Panamanian military echelons have acted -- with the sell-known inefficiency that has marked their lengthy and destructive governmental hegemony -- as insane firemen fanning the flames which they must finally extinguish.

Citizen's Letter on 'Fraud'

PA201919 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 May 84 p 15A

["Open letter to the National Guard commanders, noncommissioned officers, and troops," from Lionel R. Stempel, "Cedula No N-8-353"]

[Text] Esteemed public servants:

In the wake of the recent developments in this small but important country, Panama, I ask how most of the people who, for the good or bad of our nation, are in uniform feel about forming the national army.

Are they like the villians in Germany during World War II who sent 6 million Jews to be cremated in the furnaces, on the pretext of obeying "higher orders," or, on the contrary, are they like that group of military men who, risking all for their fatherland, tried to topple Hitler in July 1944?

We do not suggest that the above situation is the same as that existing in Panama, nor are we suggesting that you should rebel against your superiors. Nevertheless, you, better than anybody, witnessed the fraud before and during the electoral period and after the presidential elections.

By virtue of the above, one must ask if it is fair that the hopes of a people who waited patiently 16 years to express their will at the polls should be mocked.

The tremendous demonstrations in support of the opposition candidate across the length and breadth of the Republic, the endless motorcades, and the balconies filled with banners of the Democratic Opposition Alliance, together with the massive votes on 6 May, speak clearly for themselves of the popular will.

What the people emotionally wanted were clean and honest elections; unfortunately, this is not what they got.

Perhaps your voices as conscientious militarymen raised in protest against what happened may have a healthy effect for our fatherland, which we think we all love. As members of the armed forces, who have a special responsibility toward the fatherland, you will understand this request, which is not ordinarily asked of a civil servant.

Yours truly, with the civic feelings of a citizen,

Lionel R. Stempel

LLOREDA SEEKS U.S. SUPPORT FOR C.A. SOLUTION

PA202350 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Bogota -- Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo traveled to the United States this morning to seek support from international organizations to resolve the Central American situation. Lloreda will discuss the main aspects of the meeting of the international follow-up and coordination committee to be held in Cargagena from 3-8 September. Representatives of 127 countries will meet at the Cartagena meeting to seek common interests among the developed countries.

In Washington, Lloreda will talk with Harry Shlaudeman, U.S. special ambassador for Central America, and will outline the region's situation to him in the hope of finding mechanisms to achieve peace.

COSTA RICA

SALVADORAN PRESIDENT-ELECT ARRIVES ON VISIT

PA181804 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1723 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] San Jose, 18 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte arrived at 1055 (1655 GMT) for an official 4-hour visit.

On his arrival at Juan Santamaria International Airport in San Jose, the distinguished visitor was received by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez and the Salvadoran ambassador. Duarte was accompanied by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chevez Mena, Christian Democratic Party officials, and his personal security guards.

Duarte on Future Policy

PA182210 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1752 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte has arrived in Costa Rica for a brief visit. He is accompanied by Salvadoran Foreign Minister Fidel Chevez Mena. President-elect Duarte has declared that El Salvador wants to some day become a living democracy, just as Costa Rica is. His country is emerging from 50 years of dictatorship, Duarte added.

The Salvadoran people are optsimistic following the free and honest elections. Central America is made up of nations that exert influence on each other, which is the purpose of his visit. El Salvador is now entering the group of democratic nations, Jose Napoleon Duarte concluded.

[Begin Duarte recording] The reason for my visit to Costa Rica is basically to bring greetings to the people and Government of Costa Rica and to tell them that El Salvador has now become a democratic nation. We are going to struggle to alleviate and eliminate the problems existing in our country -- problems of violence, the search for peace, and economic problems such as unemployment and the high cost of living.

We know that the expectations are great, but we will not attempt to perform miracles. I have said that a single man, a single party, a single sector cannot solve all the problems in the country alone, but all of us together can. That is why I intend to make my government program a social pact, in which all sectors of my country will gradually share in the effort.

To those sectors who think differently then we do, I have opened my arms. I have asked the extreme rightist sectors to abandon the path of violence and join in the political opportunity that democracy offers. I have also called on the extreme left to abandon the ways of violence and join in that same political opportunity which the nation is going to create for them in this democratic process.

I know it is not going to be easy, as we shall continue to destroy old structures, concepts that have been imposed and have generated what we have chosen to call the culture of terror. We must root out this culture of terror in order to offer security to all Salvadorans and so that tomorrow no one can say that he cannot return to the country and participate for fear of being killed or kidnapped.

If we generate such a security and face the problem of the culture of terror, we will then have the moral authority to show all sectors that democracy is neither weak nor a paradise to live in. We will show that democracy is strong, with a system capable of facing the most serious problems of the country and which does not need to resort to abuse of authority or violence to attain the people's aspirations and objectives. [end recording]

The Salvadoran president-elect considers the visit by Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge to Europe in the next few days most important. He will discuss this issue during his meeting with the Costa Rican president at the (Pozos de Santa Ana), the presidential residence for which he is scheduled to leave in the next few minutes.

Responding to questions by reporters, Jose Napoleon Duarte said he does not need to make any pact with the Salvadoran Army, that he owes respect only to the Constitution. Approached on the case of Costa Rican pilot Julio Romero Talavera, arrested for supposedly supplying weapons to the Salvadoran guerrillas some years ago, Duarte said he was not aware of the details of this matter, but that he would be interested in learning more about it.

Referring to Salvadoran foreign policy, the president-elect said it is necessary to respect the sovereignty of other states in order to receive the same respect for El Salvador, a sovereign republic. He included Nicaragua and the United States in this policy of mutual respect.

We will continue offering details of the development of Durate's visit, which has just begun here at the Juan Santamaria International Airport. He is expected to return at 1400.

Duarte on Intervention

PA182037 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 May 84

[Report by Gerardo Enrique Fonseca from the Presidential House]

[Text] We are reporting from the Presidential House, the well-known Villa Mongalva in (Pozos de Santa Ana), on the visit of Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte, who is currently having lunch with President Luis Alberto Monge and the foreign ministers of El Salvador and Costa Rica, Dr Fidel Chavez Mena and Carlos Jose Gutierrez, respectively. President-elect Duarte has said that he will not tolerate any military intervention in his country. In a way, he has also censured statements by certain Nicaraguan Government officials who have publicly admitted the possibility of intervening in El Salvador.

[Begin Duarte recording] I will not tolerate any foreign troops in El Salvador, be they U.S., Cuban, or Nicaraguan, because El Salvador is an independent and sovereign republic.

Any foreign militarymen or technicians would have to arrive there to help the Salvadoran Government, at the request of El Salvador, rather than to impose themselves on anyone. This should be clear. Allow me to go back now to the previous question: This is why I am worried about the statement by Miguel D'Escoto at the Contadora meeting, where he admitted that they are intervening in support of the Salvadoran guerrillas. Then there is the statement by one of the Sandinist junta members, Sergio Ramirez, who said in Mexico that they are willing to negotiate the support that they are giving to the Salvadoran guerrillas if a general negotiation is conducted. So they are obviously and clearly admitting and confessing to their overt participation in the domestic affairs of our nation. That is something I will never tolerate. Nor will I let other sectors intervene in our domestic affairs. So, categorically speaking, if you are referring to (?whether) U.S. troops (?or) Marines can enter our country, my response is no. [end recording]

This was a statement by the Salvadoran president-elect, who is currently having lunch with the Costa Rican president. The two will discuss issues of great bilateral importance and Monge Alvarez' upcoming visit to Europe.

Monge on Duarte Talks

PA191636 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Asked about his talks with Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte, Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge has said that his country's response to the cooperation requested by Durate will be absolute and total.

There is no doubt about the attitude of my government in this regard, Monge added. We must adhere to a Central American spirit, and we see in Jose Napoleon Duarte the true product of the will of the Salvadoran people who, by choosing him, have told the world that the Salvadorans undoubtedly chose their candidate through votes and reject the path of bullets. What the Salvadoran people showed the world when it elected its president Jose Napoleon Duarte, through votes is a historic development for Central America, the Costa Rican president noted.

Monge said: I am sure that I expressed the sentiments of the Costa Rican people when I told Mr Duarte that my people and government support [words indistinct] that his own people have tasked him with.

My upcoming trip to Europe was among the many topics we discussed during a luncheon we had. Our talks were brief but very effective and of great advantage for our two nations, Monge remarked.

During Duarte's short visit, President Monge stated, we talked about the distortion of the aggression, particularly the distorted image that the international communist propaganda is presenting of our country, making it its victim.

One of the reasons for my trip is to straighten this out and counteract this campaign which, because of its efficiency, is like the campaign the Nazis used to carry out against their adversaries, Monge said.

He concluded: I know that some confusion [words indistinct] has been created in regard to El Salvador too, and I will do everything I can for Costa Rica and El Salvador.

GUTIERREZ EXPLAINS AGREEMENT WITH NICARAGUA

PA190201 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez believes that the possibilities for peace in the region will grow in accordance with how well the peace agreement, signed in Panama City by Costa Rica and Nicaragua functions. However, he did not show much optimism that the border attacks carried out by the groups opposing the Sandinist regime will end. The foreign minister reiterated that the Costa Rican Government is willing to maintain its neutrality and adopt the necessary measures to make the peace between Costa Rica and Nicaragua effective.

Regarding reports received from Nicaragua that rebel groups have attacked several positions on the northern border with Nicaragua, Foreign Minister Gutierrez said that if these reports prove to be true then it would mean that the rebel groups are not interested in implementing the agreements adopted in Panama. However, Gutierrez added that he has not received a report on these incidents from Costa Rican Public Security Minister Angel Edmundo Solano. The foreign minister said that early reports state that shots were heard coming from the Nicaraguan side of the border.

The foreign minister added that the Costa Rican Government will provide the mixed commission -- established in the agreement adopted in Panama -- with all the information it has available at the time it is requested. Regarding a statement by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto that there are 3,000 Democratic Revolutionary Alliance rebels in Costa Rica, Gutierrez said that the commission will be able to investigate this. Gutierrez added that all charges presented by Costa Rica or Nicaragua will be investigated by the mixed commission [words indistinct] and that the two governments had agreed to cooperate.

On Status of ARDE Leaders

PA191902 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos J. Gutierrez has stated that when the time comes for the government to ask ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] leaders to leave the country because they are violating the political space [espacio politico] they were granted, it will have no problems.

He made this statement when asked if the actions of ARDE leaders here go against the objectives of the agreements signed in Panama earlier this week.

He was clear in stating that there is a difference between political space and warlike space [espacio belico]. He added that Costa Rica does not permit, nor will it ever permit, any warlike action from groups fighting against any other government.

Gutierrez further said that Salvadoran rebels also enjoy political space because Costa Rica has liberties and has been a traditional friend. However, he warned that drastic steps will be taken against any group engaging in warlike actions.

He noted that the government is bent on making its neutrality -- the Costa Rican stand of nonintervention in any regional conflict -- respected at any cost.

MONGE SENDS MESSAGE ON HELICOPTER TO SUAZO

PA190239 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] A few minutes ago the Honduran Foreign Secretariat Information and Press Office received a copy of the message that President Luis Alberto Monge sent to Honduran President Roberto Suazo Cordova. Following is the text of the message:

San Jose, 9 May 1984

Presidential House

Santa Ana

Mr President: I deeply appreciate your message of solidarity and support as a result of the aggressions by the Sandinist People's Army. I also wish to express the deep regret and indignation Costa Ricans have felt at the news of the shooting down of an unarmed Honduran helicopter, without warning or orders to land, by the Sandinist People's Army. I ask that you convey my condolences to the families of the Hondurans killed at this very difficult moment in the Central American crisis. I agree with you that it is necessary to maintain consultations and joint action between our governments in order to preserve peace and our countries' democratic regimes.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed] Luis Alberto Monge

EL SALVADOR

D'AUBUISSON WARNS OF POSSIBLE ATTACK ON PICKERING

PA182310 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2246 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] San Salvador, 18 May (ACAN-EFE) -- Extreme rightist leader Roberto D'Aubuisson today said at a press conference that he has received reports about a possible attack against Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador to El Salvador.

D'Aubuisson said that the information came from one of Jesse Helms' assistants and that Ambassador Pickering has already been informed. Jesse Helms is an extreme rightist U.S. congressman.

The Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) leader said that he is publicly reporting the possible attack -- which is to be carried out before tomorrow, Saturday -- in view of the possibility that his group would be blamed for it. He firmly rejects such an accusation.

Claims ARENA To Be Blamed

PA192131 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 19 May 84 p 2

[Text] "President Reagan personally told Senator Jesse Helms about a possible attack on U.S. Ambassador Pickering today, Saturday, and the goal was to blame the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA," Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, top leader of the party, has told the news media.

The politician explained that these maneuvers were aimed at revealing the information and then saying that "the death squads were responsible for this; that ARENA's republicans are this or that." D'Aubuisson asked those responsible for these maneuvers to discontinue their plans, "because ARENA will not be destroyed, since it is a political organization." He said that he had tried to contact the military high command but it has been impossible; he left a message for Colonel Adolfo Blandon [Armed Forces chief of staff], with the information, asking him to increase their protection of Ambassador Pickering. Maj D'Aubuisson said that some time ago he went to Guatemala, and an attack was perpetrated against an embassy while he was in that country. A diplomat from the attacked embassy said "the attack was perpetrated in D'Aubuisson's style." The most deplorable thing, he added, is that the People's Revolutionary Army, ERP, later claimed responsibility for the attack. "I ask, then who the hell made the accusations against me?"

The ARENA leader also reported that he had received a telephone call from a member of the U.S. Embassy to say that U.S. General Vernon Walters would arrive on Friday afternoon and wanted to meet with him, and that he had accepted gladly.

Lastly, D!Aubuisson said that his party had asked its government officials not to abandon their posts and wait for their replacements, to formally turn over their posts and explain what activities had been carried out. He gave one example: "The National Sugar Institute, INAZUCAR, and the Jiboa Sugar Mill, INJIBOA, now report a profit after showing a loss when they were turned over." He had also asked the new government to guarantee "the public employees' stability and respect, regardless of their political beliefs, so that they are not dismissed."

Regarding the news media's questions about who was responsible for these maneuvers, he said that he did not know and had no idea about their origin. D'Aubuisson also scored the international news media during the press conference, saying that "we have fought with the vote, we have not been financed by anyone. We have already discussed the misguided news media's schemes, which have contributed to the current misinformation. And I ask you: Who among you know what human rights are and how many there are?" Later on, D'Aubuisson told them that there were six human rights and started to talk about them, saying that most of them have been violated in El Salvador; however, he stressed that political rights have been violated by other countries when they meddled in our country's international affairs.

DUARTE COMMENTS ON MEETING WITH SUAZO CORDOVA

PA181302 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1701 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] The meeting between President Roberto Suazo Cordova and Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte of the Christian Democratic Party of El Salvador has just ended.

Honduran Presidency Secretary Carlos Roberto Flores is bidding farewell to Durate, who will address newsmen now. The Salvadoran president-elect is accompanied by Honduran Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica and President Suazo Cordova. In a few seconds, he will make a few remarks to the media:

[Duarte] I have come here on the first visit to a sister nation, and I chose Honduras as a sign of affection and friendship, particularly with the president of the Republic, who is my friend and whom I admire and respect very much. For this reason, I wanted to make this first trip to Honduras to greet its people and tell them that our efforts to achieve democracy are difficult. It has cost many lives but, thank God, we are reaching this goal, which is the search for peace, a peace that will spread and resolve the problems among human beings, societies and nations.

[Question] There has been talk about the border between Honduras and El Salvador, what hopes are there that....

[Duarte interrupting] We discussed the border problem and agreed that an effort must be made to speed up the work of the two countries to resolve it.

[Question] Is it possible to have peace in the area if Nicaragua's warlike attitude is taken into consideration?

[Duarte] I believe that the Central American problem cannot be resolved bilaterally. We must all be united in the search for Central American peace. This is what we discussed: the common effort of all these nations to find peace for Central America.

[Question] Hondurans have found the Salvadoran administration to be an obstacle in the delimitation of the border. This is clear. What will you do in this regard?

[Duarte] I understand that there is always a difference of positions between one nation and another, but I think that if we respect and understand one another and use understanding as a basis -- I have proven my affection and friendship for the Hondurans, and your president has done likewise with the Salvadorans -- we can seek peace together and resolve the small differences that may arise.

DUARTE REJECTS FOREIGN INTERVENTION, SEEKS AID

PA182012 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte, president-elect of El Salvador, was in Guatemala today for a 6-hour official visit. He said that his country's problems will not be resolved by an intervention from either U.S. or Cuban troops.

Jose Napoleon Duarte, the 57-year-old Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader who this Tuesday was declared winner in the 6 May Salvadoran elections, arrived from Honduras. His election has been characterized as very important for the efforts that U.S. President Ronald Reagan has been making to secure U.S. congressional approval for more U.S. military aid to El Salvador in the struggle against the leftist guerrillas.

Duarte will visit Costa Rica tomorrow before going to Washington to meet with Reagan on Monday. He has no plans to visit Nicaragua.

It is not logical to think about solutions that involve foreign forces such as those of the United States or Cuba, Duarte said during a news conference before meeting with Guatemalan Head of State General Oscar Humberto Mejia.

Duarte said last week that if elected he would never allow U.S. troops to enter Salvadoran territory, but praised U.S. aid, saying it is good and well-intentioned. Duarte said here he will go to Washington to negotiate U.S. aid, but this does not represent a U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

[Begin Duarte recording] This is why I am going to the United States, to speak with the U.S. Government, with President Reagan, of course, with State Department officials and with the U.S. Congress. I am going to ask all U.S. sectors for understanding, because El Salvador under the present circumstances needs a great deal of trust, a trust that is based on our elections, on our housing program, on our struggle for peace, on resolving the problem of abuse of authority, and on our resolving the problem of death squads.

Our decision to face the economic problems and overcome them requires trust from the democratic countries, trust that we have the ability to push forward. [end recording]

Duarte denied that the U.S. Government had financed his electoral campaign and that the U.S. ambassador in El Salvador had manipulated the results of the elections.

[Begin Duarte recording] That is absolutely false. That information was put out by Senator Helms, who wants to destabilize the country with that type of statement. The forces of the extreme right have used this statement to draw political gains from it. It is interesting to note that during the campaign they said that we of the PDC, myself in particular, are communists and that we had made a pact with Nicaragua and with the communists, the Sandinists, and the guerrillas. But all of a sudden they turned around, and now we are not communists, now we are of the CIA, of the U.S. sectors. They have said that we had made a pact with the forces of the world's second power, the Soviet Union, and with Cuba, and, on the other hand, with the United States. This clearly indicates the contradiction they have tried to promote.

The important thing is to realize that this is a method to try to make illegitimate the democratic process the country has experienced. I think no one doubts that the entire nation went to vote. We have beaten them on three occasions, and on this latest occasion we did it twice, at the first and second electoral rounds. This has been the people's expression. The people voted for the PDC. [end recording]

The president-elect said his government will not negotiate with the extreme left.

[Begin Duarte recording] I want to tell you that I can clearly distinguish between negotiations and (?the law). The extreme left has presented some proposals in recent years. The latest proposal includes some 20 points that are to be negotiated with rifles on the negotiating table. They want to impose their will because they feel powerful, because they have arms and bullets, and because they can kill. I can tell you that I will not sit down to negotiate with people with rifles because I have no weapon. What I have is the people's will and the people's votes. Therefore I will negotiate with those who enter the democratic process, who want democratic life, and who want votes and not bodies in the struggle. On the other hand, we cannot ignore that God has given us the ability to speak and to exchange ideas. Men and nations must talk to find solutions. But I believe that before we speak with those sectors to invite them, to ask them to join the democratic process, we have to satisfy prior requirements: We must create the environment that will ensure security in the country. [end recording]

DUARTE MEETS WITH PCN CANDIDATE GUERRERO

PA200228 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Due to strict security measures, absolutely no information has been revealed about the time that the new Salvadoran president-elect is scheduled to board a private plane for Washington to start a round of meetings with U.S. congressmen, senators, and President Ronald Reagan himself. The new Salvadoran president's meeting will conclude next Tuesday, with his return to San Salvador.

We have been able to confirm that President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte has met with Dr Francisco Jose Guerrero, presidential candidate of the National Coalition Party, PCN. The meeting was held at the new president's residence; he will be sworn in next 1 July. Despite the news media's insistent attempts, no information could be gathered about the topics discussed during the two politicians' meeting, which was held this morning.

However, we have been able to confirm that the delegation accompanying Jose Napoleon Duarte on his trip to the United States includes the following: Fidel Chavez Mena, foreign minister; Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, vice president of the Legislative Assembly; and Ernesto Belloso Funez, peasant leader of the Democratic Popular Unity, UPD.

VIDES CASANOVA FAVORS DIALOGUE WITH FMLN

PA180240 Tegucigalpa Television Hondurena in Spanish 0130 GMT 17 May 84

[Excerpts] Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Alejandro Vides Casanova has arrived in Honduras unexpectedly. Vides Casanova, the second in command of Salvadoran foreign policy, will remain in his post following Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena's confirmation. Regina Osorio has the following report:

[Begin recording] [Osorio] Commenting on the first Salvadoran civilian government in the past 50 years, which is to be led by Napoleon Duarte, the Salvadoran deputy foreign minister said that this government will face a number of problems.

[Vides Casanova] In answering in perhaps broader terms, I believe that it will not be easy to rule El Salvador. The president will face many very difficult problems. We could mention the problem of the guerrillas, the economy, the decision whether to devalue the currency, the problems of displaced persons and refugees, and an eventual boycott by the ultraright; in sum, the first year will be a very difficult one. However, I am confident that Duarte and his administration are ready and are very well prepared to rule effectively.

As for the guerrillas, we, the diplomats, invariably advocate nonmilitary solutions; we advocate political solutions. Therefore, we mighthave to seek a dialogue with the rebels; and should try to find the appropriate means to achieve this. We must find a valid mediator, because this is the biggest problem for which the political wing, Guillermo Ungo, Ruben Zamora and others, are demanding a solution. In sum, we must seek such a mechanism. However, I believe that one need not fear dialogue, as long as it takes place under certain circumstances and rules. [end recording]

ARMY SEEKING SPECIAL FMLN BATTALIONS IN MORAZON

PA190255 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 17 May 84 p 28

[Excerpt] Approximately 80 percent of the General Ramon Belloso Infantry Battalion has been mobilized to the northern sector of La Union, mostly to the areas of Nueva Esparta, Anamoros, Lislique, Poloros, El Sauce, Concepcion de Oriente, and other towns -- in a combing operation -- after having evicted guerrilla forces from the area. According to military reports received today directly from San Miguel, there were some brief skirmishes with the guerrillas. According to the report, the most important activities were carried out by the Salvadoran Army's "phantom" battalion in northeastern Morazan, when it began a search for a new FMLN brigade, the so-called "Bocas Negras." It is believed that three 50-man battalions of the Rafael Arce Zablah Brigade, BRAZ, have been sent to Cuba for special training. According to the military sources, those sent to Cuban training camps are the FMLN's best men. It is known that the rebels were picked up and taken away in an airplane that landed on a small airstrip approximately 40 days ago. It was also reported that an airplane comes every month to bring supplies for the guerrilla groups operating in the eastern sector. The supplies are mostly weapons, ammunition, medicine, and clothes.

HONDURAS

PAZ BARNICA PLEASED WITH DUARTE'S ELECTION

PA190313 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 013C GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Foreign Secretary Edgardo Paz Barnica is optimistic about future relations with El Salvador as a result of Jose Napoleon Duarte's election as president of El Salvador. Paz Barnica believes that with Duarte in the presidency, talks for the demarcation of borders can progress faster.

[Begin Paz Barnica recording] We analyzed the situation in Central America and bilateral relations and also stressed the need for a peaceful solution in Central America, a global and regional policy to strengthen democracy, a halt to the arms race, and established control measures not affecting the rights of states to defend their sovereignty and territory.

The communique signed by President Suazo Cordova and President-elect Duarte stresses a very important issue of vital interest for Honduras, and that is the establishment of mechanisms to begin discussing the demarcation of borders according to the 1980 general peace treaty.

We are confident that Duarte's administration, which will be inaugurated on 1 July, will strongly support negotiations for the border demarcation in order to end the conflict between our two countries. The constitutional government of President Suazo Cordova has made a patriotic effort in this direction, but has not noted a reciprocal attitude. We hope that the new Salvadoran Government under the presidency of Duarte, who, has been elected to the presidency three times, once in 1980 when it was stolen from him by the corrupt alliance of the oligarchy and the military and later when he won both electoral rounds of the presidential elections -- can make good the confidence that the people have in him so that he can exercise his presidential mandate in a democracy.

POLICE ARREST NICARAGUAN NEWSMAN AS SPY

PA191725 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1603 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 May (ACAN-EFE) -- An alleged spy at the service of the Nicaraguan Government was arrested by the Puerto Cortes police on the Atlantic coast of Honduras today. The police did not give any details on the spy, but confirmed that he is a Nicaraguan citizen and is being interrogated about his activities.

The arrest was made with "utmost discretion" yesterday while the spy was jotting down notes and taking photographs of a U.S. military shipment that was being unloaded in one of the ports of the National Port Enterprise. The shipment consisted of helicopters, ammunition, and troop transport vehicles that arrived on the ship "Cygnus" and are destined to be used in the second phase of the "Grenadier I" maneuvers scheduled to begin on 23 May in eastern and western Honduras with the participation of local, Salvadoran, and U.S. troops.

The police said the Nicaraguan was among a group of national and international newsmen especially invited to cover the arrival of the ship and the unloading of the military materiel.

NICARAGUA

FSLN ISSUES STATEMENT ON COUNTERREVOLUTION

PA190438 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0335 GMT 19 May 84

[FSLN "statement to the Nicaraguan people" read by Rene Nunez Tellez, member of the Sandinist Assembly and secretary of the National Directorate of the FSLN, at the closing of a Sandinist Assembly meeting at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center in Managua on 18 May -- recorded]

[Text] Nicaragua is today suffering brutal aggression by the current U.S. Administration because that administration has set as its overall goal imposing on the world the hegemony of U.S. imperialism at the cost of the progress of all the peoples and world peace. This escalation in the gunboat and big stick policy experienced and fought against by our people in 1856, 1909-1912, 1927-1932, and throughout the 40 years of Somozist dictatorship coincides with a period during which the Central American peoples are legitimately struggling to transform unjust social and economic structures and to affirm their sovereignty and national dignity. These aspirations have begun to become a reality in Central America with the victory that the Nicaraguan people achieved on 19 July 1979. Since then U.S. imperialism, guided by the Reagan administration, has sought to reestablish its hegemony and the return of exploitation and foreign oppression. In the case of Nicaragua, the U.S. Administration, in its imperialist stance, considers it vital to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

Once again in the struggle for our freedom we have to face this unjust and disproportionate aggression. As a first step, the Reagan administration has rearmed and strengthened the genocidal Somozist guard. In its attempt to train and supply the genocidal Somozist guard, the United States has militarily occupied Honduras and has built in that country a complete interventionist platform. It has also used pressures and blackmail to turn Costa Rica into another imperial and mercenary aggression front against Nicaragua. It carries out uninterrupted military land manuevers and, together with spy flights and positioning warships on our coast, a military display never before heard of in Latin American history.

The mercenary forces are the spearhead of the direct intervention for which the Reagan administration continues to prepare. The activity of these mercenary forces sows terror and death along the borders of our country. The U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA, has ordered these mercenary forces to carry out a genocidal campaign against the brave and worthy people of Nicaragua, who have lost heroic combatants and hundreds of citizens whose valuable lives are priceless.

The formation and development of the mercenary army and its criminal activity is a step intended to create conditions that will enable a direct military intervention by the United States. It is precisely toward this objective that all the operations mounted around Nicaragua and its revolution are aimed. The campaigns of slander, the shameless sabotage of the diplomatic efforts of the Contadora Group and all the efforts Nicaragua has put forth for a political solution, the creation of military blocs on the Central American isthmus, the reactivation of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, the refusal to accept international law and the decisions of the highest world courts, clearly show the warmongering decision to create a military and political cordon that will serve as a platform for the direct intervention of the United States in Nicaragua.

Amid a serious world economic crisis, the imperialist aggressions increase the serious economic problems left by Somozism and bourgeoisie traitors as their ill-fated inheritance to the working class. There are thousands of families displaced and resettled because of the terrorist policy of the U.S. Administration, and millions have been lost because of the CIA's and its mercenaries' destructive actions against our production centers, agricultural cooperatives, health centers, child development centers, schools, machinery, and construction equipment that seriously affects the progress of the revolution in the face of the social demands of the people and the supply of basic products.

Under these circumstances, the limited funds must be managed firmly to guarantee the demands of the regular combatants, militiamen, reservists, heroic towns, and the peasants who have to face the criminal actions of the CIA's mercenary bands on a daily basis. In other words, production, supplies, the country's resources, and the people's energy, must now be used to satisfy the needs of those who risk their lives every day on the front lines.

The economic policy must redouble its efforts to improve supplies and protect indispensable goods, helping out the poorest sectors of the country and defending the classes that comprise the defense of the homeland and their goals. Along this line, we will continue to promote the agrarian reform for the benefit of the poorer peasants so that they may have their land and property titles without affecting those small- and medium-sized farmers and the businessmen who are truly involved in production.

Other important tasks include improving public and cargo transportation; organizing more efficient collection of products; improving public health mechanisms and systems; giving answers to the demands of those displaced in resettled areas; distributing, in rural and urban areas, property titles to workers so that they may build homes; and giving attention to the families of the heroes and martyrs who have fallen in the defense, those wounded in war, the families of the mobilized persons, and those taken prisoner in combat. This is a patriotic duty that must involve all the sectors of the nation.

In these efforts it is necessary to exercise firm control over basic products to include a policy against those who speculate with these products.

Under these circumstances, the international action resources policy that includes [word indistinct] cooperation and donations has to be in accordance with the needs of our economy in order to face the aggression and fulfill the basic needs of a people already waging a war imposed by the U.S. military power.

The material damage caused by the terrorist activities of the current U.S. Administration has surpassed 2 billion cordobas. To this figure, we have to add the expenses entailed in mobilization and transportation for defense; the costs involved in the strategic training for defense; the profits we have stopped receiving; and the losses we have experienced because ships have not been able to dock in our ports because of the mining of our harbors, an action that was organized, directed, and carried out by the CIA.

The aggression ordered against Nicaragua, aside from affecting us with commercial and financial strangulation, is intended to paralyze the country and stop our material capacity to defend the nation. This aggression is executed by a great economic and military power against our small country, which has to make extraordinary efforts to reject and stop it. The quota of blood and sacrifice imposed on us to uphold our dignity and national honor are as great as the material resources we are forced to invest and which are beyond our economic possibilities.

We will therefore have to spread the few resources we have between the defense of the national sovereignty and our other basic needs. The shortages, the problems of supply, the absence of some essential products such as medicines, will have to be understood as part of the sacrifice we are making to uphold our right to life and national sovereignty.

Revolutionary austerity and simplicity and our identification with the working classes' just happiness and their sacrifices and dangers will always be a permanent part of the Sandinist members' formation.

Likewise, U.S. imperialism has increased its aggressions in our territory, through covert and overt attacks on our economy, sabotage, plans to organize clandestine terrorist networks, diversionist propaganda, unfortunate statements by the church's hierarchy, and subsequent and challenging provocations by reactionary political parties.

These are the various instruments of a thoroughly organized apparatus whose aim is the destruction of our revolutionary power and the weakening of our defensive capacity, to create the necessary conditions to strike at Nicaragua with a military intervention. The warmongering Yankees who formerly tried to create an artificial clamor for elections in Nicaragua are now doing everything possible so that these elections do not take place. In order to boycott the electoral agreement achieved in our revolutionary Nicaragua, the U.S. is manipulating -- through the CIA -- reactionary parties and their spokesmen and news media to carry out its antinational plans.

Despite these deliberate and illegal efforts to frustrate the electoral process, the FSLN reasserts its decision that the elections will be held, fully convinced that the same people who achieved a victory in the armed struggle against Somozism and are defeating the mercenary army on the battlefront will emerge victorious from the electoral struggle that will be held within the complex political framework we are experiencing.

It is necessary to strongly demonstrate the revolution's power, by means of a legal action against its enemies and our decision to act without hesitation in this concern. Nicaragua's enemies are crashing against the majority of our workers and poor peasants, the best of our youth, ample sectors of the middle class, and the vast majority of the people -- who have proved a thousand times their unswerving decision to fight to the last man in defense of their homeland and revolutionary achievements.

The mobilized people have given extraordinary answers; these answers are the soul and nerve of a force that maintains the defense of the revolution as its permanent task. In order to counter this vast, overwhelming aggression, we must basically consolidate the alliance of workers and peasants and defend their interests and achievements as the basis to strengthen the people's policy of national unity.

We must avoid expectations of victory in the short term, as the only way to prepare ourselves for a prolonged struggle -- marked by long periods of sacrifice and difficulties to advance in the reconstruction of our new Nicaragua. This is a war for the defense of our homeland, and this defense is taken up by all honest, patriotic, and revolutionary Nicaraguans.

The people of Nicaragua and its vanguard -- the FSLN and its National Directorate -- will defeat this mercenary army with which U.S. imperialism has started its interventionist plans. The great task of our national unity will be to destroy this imperialist plan. This moment is marked by an increased ideological struggle, and the main role is played by the deepest understanding and assimilation of our revolutionary solutions. This means we must assume a heartfelt and decided defense of our basic principles and actions, even in the streets.

The Sandinist people will counter, anywhere and under any circumstances, U.S. imperialism's confusions and manipulations and its reactionary spokesmen. It is necessary to strengthen our daily ideological struggle among our workers and youth; it will allow our people to clearly identify U.S. imperialism and its internal agents. We must strengthen political education with the dissemination and understanding of our revolution's programs, achievements, problems, and the cost of the interventionist war that has been imposed on us by the Reagan administration.

Our people fortify their combat morale not only with Sandino's heroic legacy and the FSLN, but with the struggle being waged to defend our revolutionary achievements. These historical elements allow us to consolidate our assurance of the people's victory, prove our patriotic dignity, and assume our duties and sacrifices in the defense of our liberty.

The international front has been and will continue to be one of the most important to counter the danger of a direct intervention and other aggressive actions launched by the U.S. Administration. The reassurance that the survival of the Sandinist peoples' revolution basically depends on our own strength does not diminish the importance of our international struggle or ignore the fact that the existence of our revolution is only possible within the context of a determined correlation of world forces.

The international struggle is a necessary complement of the political, military, sociological, and ideological struggle being heroically and tenaciously waged by our people. It is the basis of Nicaragua's and the FSLN's increasing appeal to the peoples of the world. We will continue to resort to all international organizations to denounce and condemn the criminal policy advocated by the current U.S. Administration.

We have asserted that the Somozist legacy and the international economic crisis threaten to strangle our development. Nicaragua has decided to start a sustained effort to overcome its backwardness and underdevelopment. We have said the the U.S. Government has begun its intervention by organizing and conterrevolutionary army. Nicaragua has decided to turn all its people into an invincible army that is making U.S. imperialism;s mercenaries bite the dust of defeat.

We have said that U.S. imperialism has decided to destroy us; Nicaragua has decided to survive and increase the stature of its revolution, to march invincibly toward the achievement of its strategic goals. In order to achieve these goals, all the people will join in the direct struggle, in our trenches and in the defense of our cities, regions, neighborhoods, schools, working centers, and throughout our national territory.

Nicaragua is a banner raised to represent the hope of all our Latin American peoples. Nicaragua represents -- with its small size and enormous dignity -- the interests of the oppressed and exploited people of the world. All the peoples bear witness to this historical crossroads, in which Nicaraguans defend the reaffirmation of their life as a nation, even though this means having to pay the price of a direct military intervention by U.S. imperialism. This will be our contribution toward man's struggle to extend peace throughout the earth. More land to the poor peasants! Death to speculation, exploitation, and intervention! Death to the Yankee aggressors' mercenary army! All to the battle front! Everything for the combatants! Free homeland or death.

[Signed] FSLN National Directorate. Tomas Borge Martinez, Victor Tirado Lopez, Daniel Ortega Saavedra, Humberto Ortega Saavedra, Henry Ruiz Hernandez, Jaime Wheelock Roman, Bayardo Arce Castano, Carlos Nunez Tellez, Luis Carrion Cruz.

ORTEGA SAYS U.S. READY TO LAUNCH INVASION

PA190150 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2315 GMT 18 May 84

[Statements by Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, during an interview with two unidentified Japanese correspondents; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Ortega] We believe that the military equipment needed by U.S. troops to launch an invasion against Nicaragua is ready.

The airports in Honduras are practically complete. We have never discarded the thought that, even before the U.S. elections in November, there could be a massive invasion against our country.

[Question -- in English] [Words indistinct] talk with, negotiate with the United States?

[Ortega] We have contacted the United States, there has been some communication, but up to this moment we have not found in the United States a will to negotiate.

[Question -- in English] [Words indistinct] expect of the Japanese Government?

[Ortega] We have asked the governments of the world, particularly those governments that are allies of the United States -- in this case Japan is a very important ally of the United States -- to explain to the United States the need for a political solution to the Central American problem and that they strongly oppose a policy of more war in Central America and U.S. military intervention in Central America.

ORTEGA LA NACION REMARKS ON INVASION CITED

PA200250 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] In a special report by correspondent Lafitte Fernandez on declarations by Commander Daniel Ortega, the Costa Rican newspaper LA NACION today carried the following headline: Nicaragua Will Attack This Country If Costa Rica Helps Nicaragua's Invasion.

Because of the importance to us of these declarations by Managua's strongman, here are the most relevant aspects of this information. LA NACION said: Daniel Ortega has said there are U.S. troops here and insisted that the CIA plans all aggressions against his country from Costa Rican territory. Ortega insisted that his declaration should not be taken as a threat but as a law of war and that, if the attacking force is based in such territories, the defending party should also respond in kind to such territories and countries. According to Ortega's declaration to LA NACION's Fernandez, the paper stresses. Nicaragua would be willing to enter Costa Rican territory under the pretext of repelling an ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] attack. Later, however, Ortega said that his country would not precipitate an attack on our country, but would act only if Nicaragua were attacked.

Ortega denied rumors that the Sandinist government has 50 armored tanks in (Sibalsa) allegedly ready to enter Costa Rica. Ortega again insisted that Costa Rica is a base for counterrevolution, just like Honduras, and added that Costa Rica is being pressured by the United States to violate its neutrality and pave the way for an armed aggression against Nicaragua.

LA PRENSA REPORTER CITES U.S. EMBASSY TIES

PA181605 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpts] Luis Mora, a reporter for the newspaper LA PRENSA who was arrested because of counterrevolutionary activities, disclosed the ties between the U.S. Embassy and LA PRENSA last night. Mora, who made statements to the General Directorate of State Security last night, spoke to "Extra" this morning about counterrevolutionary activities he was carrying out in Tipitapa, Leon, San Rafael Del Sur, and Managua.

[Begin Mora recording] In Costa Rica in late 1982, after participating in a CTN [Nicaraguan Workers Federation] labor seminar, I (?went to) [words indistinct] Roberto Guillen and Aparicio Guillen. They gave me...[changes thought], they tried to, [changes thought again], they offered 5,000 cordobas to go to Costa Rica. After I went to Costa Rica for a second time, they gave me 34,000 cordobas. This is how I began working with them.

As to the participation of Radio Impacto, I didn't know anything about it. I knew it was initially founded by Manuel Giron but then I forgot the matter. [passage indistinct] However, I became interested in working with Radio Impacto because by late February I needed more money. I had more obligations. [Words indistinct] so I needed to make more money.

However, during broadcasts I began to notice that the station was only [words indistinct] against Nicaragua. I listened to the love stories by Fabio Gadea Mantilla, the commentaries by Ofilio Garcia and Omar Castillo, and the monitoring service given by that station, which transmitted reports from Radio 15 September and Voice of Sandino. I gradually began to realize that this was going to cause serious problems for me. Some people at LA PRENSA were telling me, you are going to be accused of being involved in the counterrrevolution. I kept telling them I don't know if this is counterrevolutionary. I am a journalist. If they are counterrevolutionaries, that is their business; all I am doing is my work as a journalist. I didn't know Radio Impacto was owned by the counterrevolution, to be very honest. [end recording]

Mora, who was arrested in late April when his ties with ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance] -- the mercenary group operating from Costa Rica -- were confirmed, said that U.S. Embassy officials have a say in the decisions and the pro-imperialist line followed by LA PRENSA.

[Begin Mora recording] I know of meetings that are frequently held at LA PRENSA. For example, I know that leaders of political parties go to LA PRENSA to meet with leaders of that newspaper. Parties' plans and strategies are drafted there. I don't know why they go to LA PRENSA, but it seems that it is the leader of some acitivites.

As for activities or ties between U.S. Embassy officials and leaders of LA PRENSA, this is also true. Former Ambassador Quainton -- when he was still ambassador, I understand he already left -- used to go to LA PRENSA frequently. Gambell, Kellery, and another official whose name I think is Randolph -- whose name appears in BARRICADA all the time; apparently he wants to join one of the social Christian parties -- visit the newspaper offices on a normal basis. They meet there and one of them or at least one of them, participates in the Monday meeting of LA PRENSA's editorial board. This staff meets on Mondays to discuss the line that the newspaper will follow and U.S. Embassy officials participate in these meetings, at least one of these officials does. [end recording]

CENSORSHIP BLOCKS 18 MAY ISSUE OF LA PRENSA

PA191948 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0806 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] Managua, 19 May (DPA) -- The opposition newspaper LA PRENSA was not published last night due to problems of "informative material" suppressed by Interior Ministry censorship. It is known that the paper had planned to publish an editorial on a statement made on Sandinist television by correspondent Luis Mora Sanchez -- who was arrested on charges of conducting "counterrevolutionary" activities -- that officials of the newspaper were involved in various political activities against the Sandinist government.

According to sources at LA PRENSA, the editorial was censored, and the paper was unable to fill the space with enough quality material for publication. The paper, which has the widest circulation of any paper in the country, had a great deal of material on the case of the correspondent, it was said.

LA PRENSA Editorials Read

PA201653 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] Now, during this weekly summary, we will again read the two editorials in the Managua newspaper LA PRENSA, which were supposed to be published yesterday, but were censored by the Sandinist apparatus. Here is the first editorial, entitled "This Revolution Was Waged To Respect Human Dignity."

Were it not for the fact that human rights are involved, we would not even comment on the statement made over television by our co-worker Luis Mora, who was jailed by the security corps for sending news reports to Radio Impacto of San Jose, Costa Rica. After confessing that he was guilty like these men [as heard] and linked to the counterrevolutionaries, Mora had to plod through a long and confusing scheme of slander and [word indistinct] against Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo, who could not be missing from the list; his fellow workers in the Central Organization of Nicaraguan Workers; the democratic parties; and, finally, the company for which he works. He said in conclusion that the meetings of LA PRENSA's editorial board are always attended by a representative of the U.S. Embassy.

This type of statement by prisoners shocked the world and even deceived quite a few people 40 or 50 years ago, when Stalin carried out his purges and Hitler mounted his trials. The method is now discredited, but this does not ameliorate the indignation felt by every civilized person at seeing and hearing a prisoner, through no fault of his own, say before a television camera -- and all of Nicaragua knows the cause -- lies and slander that tear at his conscience and destroy his personality and honor.

According to the humdrum Sandinist verbiage, LA PRENSA -- the daily newspaper that has struggled the most for Nicaraguans' dignity and freedom -- is the newspaper of infamy, of the CIA, of the American Embassy, and of reaction. We will not discuss this point, much less after listening to the pitiful testimony of a prisoner. What we do contend is that a prisoner deserves respect, and that this was precisely the reason for waging this revolution.

The second editorial, entitled "Our Position," reads as follows:

In view of the presenation of the documentary on Luis Mora Sanchez on state television on 17 May, LA PRENSA points out the followoing facts to the Nicaraguan people and the world:

1. We maintain our solidarity with Companero Luis Mora Sanchez. We are aware of the kind of pressures, the psychological tricks, and the advanced scientific and chemical means that can be used in communist prisons to change the personality of a prisoner and force him to testify against himself, his fellow workers, and the truth.

2. The presentation of Mora Sanchez was an illegal action against human rights. Assuming the authority of a judge, the Interior Ministry publicly convicted him, denying him the opportunity to defend himself, and in the absence of a lawyer who could counsel him or a judge who could guarantee that his testimony was given freely without coercion, deceit, threats, or (?pressures).

3. Human nature never turns against itself. Rather, it defends itself or looks for excuses. Consequently, if Mora Sanchez incriminated himself it was because he was subjected to heavy pressures and to interrogation and questioning methods that could overpower a man's free will and nature's law of self-preservation.

4. Luis Mora was forced to lie without reason about facts that could be easily disproved by 200 witnesses. Saying, for instance, that a member of the U.S. Embassy visits LA PRENSA every Monday to attend the meetings of its editorial board is such a big and easily disproved lie that it could be said only under a jailer's complete influence.

5. The protrayal of normal and legal activities as crime also implies that Luis Mora Sanchez' will has been bent, and that the solitary confinement to which he has been subjected, as well as the continuous repetition of incriminating charges and the planting of feelings of self-guilt and desperation, has managed to make the prisoner develop a dark view of himself and his activities, including ones that are legal and normal in every (?sense).

6. We cannot forget the origin of Luis Mora's imprisonment, which began with a threat by Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the government junta, who promised to jail him for broadcasting over Radio Impacto a report on hundreds of mothers who were protesting the mandatory military service to which their sons have been subjected.

7. The attempt to use Mora's testimony against LA PRENSA leads us to believe that this is an attempt to justify the new law on communications media, which imposed on Nicaragua's last remaining independent medium an ironclad and frustrating institutional censorship like the one we have endured thus far.

8. Finally, we wish to publicly demand once more that Luis Mora Sanchez be released, that he be presented to the common courts, that he be made to stand a just and honest trial, and that the testimony obtained in jail be repudiated by the judges, so we Nicaraguans can recover from the shock we have received at seeing Luis made to incriminate himself.

LA PRENSA Director Pablo Antonio Cuadra has sent the following telegram to Interior Minister Tomas Borge Martinez:

After listening on television to the testimony given by Luis Mora before a member of the security police, we are convinced that our reporter has committed no crime punishable by law and, therefore, we beg of you to order his release.

We have presented the two editorials and the telegram sent to us by LA PRENSA.

REPORTAGE ON ARMY-CONTRA MILITARY ACTIVITY

Attack on Production Unit

PA190438 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] While the Contadora Group was meeting to try to achieve peace in the region counterrevolutionaries led by CIA mercenaries attacked the Las Brisas state production unit in the sector of El Castillo, 70 km from Jinotega. The Sandinist People's Army, EPS, repelled the attack, and the enemy fled in disarray toward the northern area of the country. A total of 16 campaneros, soldiers and civilians, were reported dead; considerable material damage was also reported.

The EPS has carried out a successful operation in the sector of (Lausixa), 17 km north of Barra de Rio Grande, Zelaya Sur. The EPS men destroyed a logistics support network and captured two launches used to transport counterrevolutionaries. The launches had U.S. license numbers.

Rebels Killed in Jinotega

PA202300 Managua International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The Sandinist People's Army, EPS, annihilated 62 mercenaries entering from Honduran territory in a week. The mercenaries had been trained in Honduras by U.S. advisers. The EPS military operation was carried out in the northern Jinotega Department. Bodies buried by counterrevolutionary survivors are constantly being found.

Defense Ministry sources showed national and international media a large quantity of war supplies bearing NATO markings, left behind by mercenaries in their flight toward Honduras.

Clash in Nueva Segovia

PA210015 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2312 GMT 20 May 84

[Report by Nelson Brizuela from the Defense Ministry]

[Text] A meeting during which Deputy Commander Roberto Sanchez reported on the latest clashes with CIA mercenaries ended a few minutes ago. Sanchez said that yesterday, Saturday, at 0600 several clashes occurred in the neighborhood of San Juan on the banks of the Coco River, 8 km west of Quilali in Nueva Segovia Department. Skirmishes occurred in the (Los Balches) sector in (Amasli) at 1500 yesterday. The CIA mercenaries, who numbered more than 700, attacked San Juan directly, and heavy fighting ensued. The attack was repelled at midnight after 9 hours of confrontation.

Sanchez stressed the self-defensive action by the residents, who were at a tremendous disadvantage, because only 80 companeros confronted the 700 attackers. The 80 defenders, most of them peasants, repelled the counterrevolutionaries.

Early this morning, the Sandinist People's Army began pursuing the attackers. At noon, and according to estimates, the attackers had suffered 60 dead and a larger number of wounded, because the attackers commandeered a truck to carry their numerous wounded.

We had to regret the loss of 15 companeros. Clashes still continue and, for this reason, there are no final results. Commander Sanchez insisted on the courage of the 80 companeros who repelled the attack of the counterrevolutionaries, thereby demonstrating the morale of the Sandinist fighters.

FDN REPORTS INTENSIFIED OPERATIONS, GAINS

PA181605 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 17 May 84 p 17

[Text] In recent days, the anti-Sandinist rebels of the FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] have stepped up their efforts in northern and central Nicaragua. The most serious clashes have taken place in the Departments of Jinotega and Matagalpa where, it has been reported, the largest concentrations of anti-Sandinist insurgents exist.

Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, president of the FDN National Directorate, today said that in central Matagalpa the armed peasants have repeatedly ambushed the Sandinist Army, inflicting serious and important casualties. Heavy fighting has been reported in this department in the areas of Cano Sucio, El Algodon, La Ceiba, Cerro Verde, Mancera, Las Penitas, and El Rosario Hill. A total of 106 government troops were killed or wounded in these operations.

Meanwhile, in the northcentral Department of Jinotega, the rebel offensive has intensified even more violently. According to our source, the troops of the Marxist regime in Managua have been attacked in Chaguiton, Laguna Verde, La Pavona, El Arco, Ojoche, and Las Cuatro Esquinas del Cua. The general headquarters of Sandinist Battalion 40-12 was located in Las Cuatro Esquinas del Cua, but it was completely destroyed, and the insurgents seized 32 AK-47 rifles and over 15,000 rounds of ammunitions for them. The clandestine Radio 15 September has reported that Nelson Herrera an EPS [Sandinist People's Army] officer, was killed in this attack. In all, the government troops sustained over 300 casualties. Heavy fighting between the rebels and the Sandinist troops is also taking place in Nueva Segovia Department, near Ciudad Antigua, which is located about 20 km from Ocotal, the department capital.

According to the rebel station, fighting continues throughout the northern and central parts of Nicaragua. It added that "the armed FDN peasants" "are gradually gaining control over new enemy positions" on the various war fronts.

Calero on New Fronts

PA191747 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 18 May 84 p 52

[Text] The anti-Sandinist Nicaraguan FDN [Nicaraguan Democratic Force] announced yesterday that it has begun fighting the Managua regime in the country's southern zone, where only the guerrillas led by Eden Pastora had been operating.

FDN Commander in Chief Adolfo Calero Portocarrero announced that the rebels had seized a military garrison of the Sandinist People's Army (EPS) in Chontales Department, in the south, killing 20 Sandinist soldiers in this action. He added that the general headquarters of Sandinist Battalion 25-14, located in Jorgito village, 145 km southwest of Managua, was stormed and seized by the Dr Salvador Mendieta Task Force, of the Jorge Salazar Regional Command.

He indicated that his men had seized over 100 weapons, including 86 Czechoslovak BZ rifles, 10 revolvers of various calibers, 1 M-79 grenade launcher, several AK-47 rifles, as well as abundant ammunition.

Cinchonero Falls

Calero Portocarrero further said that a Honduran who has been identified as Pedro Espinal Flores, a member of the Cinchonero Marxist subversive group, was among the Sandinist troops killed. Espinal Flores was the battalion's political official. He also identified several of the other soldiers killed, such as company chief Felipe Jose Flores Solano, platoon chief Gerardo Cruz Lopez, and Commander Soto Torres, the third leading officer.

The anti-Sandinist leader announced that they will continue opening new war fronts both in southern Nicaragua and in the east and west, where several commands already operate. He added that those new war fronts are "the paths toward the Nicaraguan people's freedom."

POLAND JOINS IN BOYCOTT OF OLYMPIC GAMES

PA181448 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] In a special meeting, the Polish Olympic Committee decided not to send a delegation to the Los Angeles Games which will be held from 28 July to 12 August. The Polish decision is based on the climate of anticommunist hysteria that exists in Los Angeles. There, terrorist groups, with the acquiescence of the U.S. Government, have planned attacks, kidnappings, and provocation campaigns against the athletes from the socialist countries. Previously, the Olympic Committees from the USSR, Bulgaria, the GDR, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Vietnam, and Laos had decided not to send delegations to the Los Angeles Games.

International news reports state that the gang leaders of the anticommunist "Ban the Soviets" organization have declared that they are ready to conduct demonstrations, rallies, and other such activities, during the Los Angeles Games, even if the athletes from the socialist countries are absent. These gang leaders said that their group has up to 100 tickets for each of the different stadiums in which the games will be held, and added that they will direct their attacks against "anyone who gets in our way."

WASHINGTON POST CITED ON OLYMPIC GAMES

PA201728 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] THE WASHINGTON POST has published an article noting that U.S. Presidents James Carter and Ronald Reagan have made the Los Angeles Olympic Games fail for having given a political character to this type of competition. The newspaper refers to the boycott that James Carter, who was the president of the United States in 1980, dictated against the Moscow Olympic Games of that year, and to the Reagan government's attitude toward a lack of guarantees for the security of sportsmen from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in Los Angeles.

THE WASHINGTON POST comments on a statement by former Senator William Fulbright, saying that in the past 10 years the various U.S. Governments have made the serious mistake of not acknowledging the Soviet Union as a great country.

The Soviet Union, THE WASHINGTON POST states, does not send a delegation to any competition if there is a danger that its sportsmen will be attacked or used as propaganda tools by the enemy. It adds: The Russians, like the North Americans, don't like to be abused. The Soviet media have published statements by (Eduardo Romero), president of the Peruvian Olympic Committee, noting that he believes that the Soviet Union's decision not to send a delegation to the Los Angeles Games because of the lack of guarantees for the security of sportsmen from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries is justified.

RAUL CASTRO CLOSES FAR PARTY SECRETARIES MEETING

FL181258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Party Central Committee and minister of the FAR, gave the closing speech at the fifth meeting of FAR party secretaries. In his speech, he said that our party is today more than ever at the center of preparing the country for defense and it is beginning to play the part it should in war through the defense councils of the zones, municipalities, and provinces, under the direction of the National Defense Council, headed by the first secretary of the party Central Committee.

He pointed out that the party is the true creator of this decisive link to unleashing the war by all the people -- the defense zones.

Later, Raul said that all the advances we have made during these years, such as creatively carrying out new concepts of national defense, would have been unthinkable without the assistance of the members and leadership bodies of our party. He added that the leadership bodies as well as the organizations and political workers play an important part in FAR activities when the positively influence the state of mind of the personnel with the aim of putting these new concepts into practice. Elsewhere in his speech, Army Gen Raul Castro mentioned the internationalist spirit of our FAR and its combative qualities. He pointed out that even the Yankee military specialists have admitted that we have an Army that is highly trained and combat hardened. He added that we also have people that are better organized, more militant, and more combative than before.

The FAR minister said it is the task of the party to contribute to improving discipline, combat training, and attitude; deepening political work; and improving methods and style. He also referred to the importance of increasing cultural work, taking greater advantage of existing installations, as well as raising the level of joint activities with mass organizations.

The second secretary of the Central Committee said a permanent and complete involvement of the entire population in defense activities had been achieved, and that a genuine line of defense of the masses is being set up, the most eloquent expression of which is the Territorial Troops Militia [MTT].

Army Gen Raul Castro emphasized that the conclusions at which we have arrived are certainly not perfect or completely permanent, but they are realistic, profound, and logical and they contribute extraordinary to the strengthening of the country's defensive potential. He emphasized that we should continue working enthusiastically for their practical realization.

He also assessed the international situation, which he characterized as tense because of the aggressive and militaristic policy of the current U.S. Administration. Army Gen Raul Castro denounced the increase of the U.S. military presence in the Caribbean to try to intimidate Cuba, Nicaragua, and the Salvadoran revolutionaries -- a situation that has been repeatedly denounced by numerous people in the world who cannot be considered socialists or communists.

Referring to the arms race, the FAR minister pointed out that the Pentagon will spend $2 billion on war expenses in the immediate future. He emphasized that the only sensible policy is not to yield an inch to imperialism.

Finally, the FAR minister referred to the fighting tradition of our people. He emphasized that all members of the FAR are educated in those traditions and that they know how to be faithful continuers of the traditions and to enrich them.

VICE ADMIRAL ON DANGERS FROM IMPERIALISM

FL191444 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpts] The Cuban Revolutionary Navy's [MGR] Western Naval District has taken on the obligation of becoming Cuba's foremost advance unit. This obligation was taken on at a formal ceremony at which the Western Naval District received the honorary 30th anniversary 26th July flag and the national vanguard flag, which the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC] bestowed on it.

Vice Admiral Aldo Santamaria Cuardrado, Central Committee member, FAR vice minister, and MGR chief, gave the closing speech at the ceremony. Santamaria Cuardrado noted the necessity of continuing the thrust of the socialistic struggle through the completion of assigned tasks which will strengthen Cuba's position of defense. This takes on greater importance each day because of the critical time in which international political relations is passing through as a consequence of the Reagan-led group of fascists who make the U.S. Government's adventureous, warmongering, and demented policies. Santamaria Cuadrado added that in confronting the danger of imperialism taking action against Cuba, we are forced to prepare and ready ourselves more each day to repel any aggression, and, if circumstances warrant, to wage a people's war and to fight the enemy without let-up until annihilating it completely.

STATEMENT ENDORSES VIETNAM PROTEST TO PRC

PA181413 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry has issued a statement in support of the Vietnamese Government's protest over the recent attacks that PRC military forces have carried out against Vietnam. The note issued in Havana states that the PRC Army's incursions and bombings have caused the death of many Vietnamese civilians and damage to the economy of that nation of Southeast Asia. It emphasizes that the PRC's aggression violates Vietnam's sovereignty and territorial integrity, worsens the tension in the area, threatens the Indochinese nations' efforts to achieve peace, and is an attack on world stability. The Cuban Foreign Relations Ministry expresses its firm support of the statements made by the Vietnamese Foreign Affairs Ministry regarding the Chinese attacks and urges that the two nations resolve their differences peacefully in accordance with Vietnam's repeated proposals.

MOVEMENT SENDS MESSAGE TO SAHARAN PEOPLE

PA201821 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The Cuban Movement for the Peace and Sovereignty of the Peoples has sent a greeting to the Saharan people on the occasion on the 11th anniversary of the struggle initiated by the Polisario Front. The message expresses the movement's support for and solidarity with the struggle this front is waging in the face of military aggression from Morocco and the United States. The document issued by the Cuban movement points out the international prestige and solidarity that the Polisario Front has because of its firm position in defense of sovereignty and as the legitimate representative of the Saharan people.

MORE ON CASTRO MEETING WITH RED CROSS OFFICIALS

PA181501 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Cuban chief of state Fidel Castro has received the members of the delegation of the International Red Cross [IRC] that has been in Havana during the past few days. (Andre Pastier), general delegate for Latin America, and (Jean Pierre Hook), director of operational activities, offered a detailed explanation of the humanitarian programs of the IRC in various troubled areas and of the work done by that organization. The IRC made a praiseworthy effort to recover the bodies of the Cuban helpers who were killed and those who were wounded during last year's U.S. imperialist aggression against Grenada.

CASTRO RECEIVES GDR CONSTRUCTION MINISTER

AU181841 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 17 May 84 p 1

[Text] Havana (ADN) -- Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party and chairman of the Councils of State and Ministers, received on Tuesday [15 May] GDR Construction Minister Wolfgang Junker who is staying in Havana for the 57th session of the permanent CEMA commission for the building industry. Minister Junker conveyed greetings from Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, to which Fidel Castro most cordially reciprocated.

Problems of cooperation in the building industry sector were discussed during the talks, which took place in a friendly, cordial atmosphere. The experiences in preparing and carrying out the long-term apartment building program and particularly the architectural designing of the capital of Berlin were explained to Fidel Castro. He underscored that despite the tense political situation, particular attention is also being attached in Cuba to solving the housing problem, particularly in Havana.

Fidel Castro highly valued the economic cooperation with the GDR and particularly the promotion of the development of the Cuban cement industry by the GDR. He stressed that it has been possible through GDR support to steadily ensure supplies of cement to the Cuban construction industry in the past few years.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT ENDS VISIT TO WASHINGTON

PA190530 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid left Washington on his way back to Mexico at the end of a 3-day official visit to the United States, where he met with President Ronald Reagan. De la Madrid's visit to the United States was aimed at finding the most adequate means for a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict. Speaking before the U.S. Congress yesterday, De la Madrid said that he is strongly opposed to military actions in Central America as a means of solving the political and social problems of the region. He also rejected President Reagan's idea of blaming the problems of the region on the East-West confrontation.

Differences With U.S. Cited

PA192356 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 84

["Chronicle" by PRENSA LATINA correspondent Juan Roberto Laforte in Mexico City -- recorded]

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid's visit to Washington has emphasized the deepening contradictions between the two governments over the Central American conflict, in the judgment of political observers. The opposing viewpoints were evident: While Reagan made an effort to hold Nicaragua, Cuba, and the Soviet Union responsible for the situation in Central America, De la Madrid stressed that the Central American conflict is due to the dearth of economic means, political backwardness, and social injustice.

In his speech before a joint session of the U.S. Congress, the Mexican president said that we cannot permit the Central American problem to become a part of the confrontation of others or reforms and structural changes to be labeled as a threat to the security of other nations of the hemisphere. At the precise moment when a U.S. military ship was unloading dozens of tons of arms in El Salvador, the Mexican president was in the Capitol expressing his rejection of the military plans that, he said, endanger the security of the region.

Seven months after the invasion of Grenada, in the midst of the militarization of Honduras and an increase of military aid to the Salvadoran regime, De la Madrid said that he hoped that the U.S. people would place limited use of power and reason ahead of the use of force and will.

In what was interpreted as a response to Reagan's attacks against Nicaragua, Miguel de la Madrid demanded the complete acceptance of pluralism and warned that a uniform style of [word indistinct] cannot be imposed on anyone, because democracy cannot use the weapons of tyranny. Contrary to the warmongering position of the U.S. Government, the Mexican president said that in Central America, politics and diplomacy offer real prospects for agreements to (?proscribe) the installation of foreign military forces, decrease and eliminate the presence of foreign military advisers, prevent arms traffic, and prevent the action of destabilizing groups.

U.S. REPLIES TO MEXICAN PROTEST NOTE ON COLUMN

PA191900 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The United States has officially responded to a protest note lodged by the Mexican Government over slanders published in the U.S. press against President Miguel de la Madrid. Mexico's protest was caused by an article written by columnist Jack Anderson, who wrote in THE WASHINGTON POST that De la Madrid had transferred huge sums of money to bank accounts in other countries. Anderson attributed this information to a high-ranking official in the Reagan administration and to another source who has access to CIA files.

The official U.S. response states that the documents available in all the U.S. Government offices allow one to reach the firm conclusion that the Mexican president has set a high standard to fulfill the commitment of bringing honesty to his administration.

For its part, the Mexican protest note states: It is a pity that the sensationalism of a columnist has tarnished the pages of so prestigious a newspaper with completely false accusations.

L.A. COUNTRIES SEEK DEBT HELP, CALL FOR MEETING

PA210243 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] We will not accept being pushed into a situation of forced insolvency and continuous economic stagnation. We require extended repayment terms, adequate grace periods, and lower interest rates and financial margins. This is included in an appeal to hold a meeting of foreign affairs and finance ministers made by Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. The presidents of these four countries made the appeal because of the grave crisis that is affecting the economies of their countries and Latin America in general as a result of successive interest rate increases imposed by U.S. banks and the protectionist measures adopted by the United States.

The statement added that it is necessary to expand the possibilities for Latin American products to have access to the markets of the developed countries. The foreign debts and protectionism were analyzed bilaterally by the heads of state during the recent tour by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid to Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela.

At the present time Brazil's foreign debt is $110 billion; Mexico owes $90 billion; and Argentine $43 billion, making these the most deeply indebted countries of the continent and the world [as heard].

VENEZUELAN LEADERS CRITICIZE U.S. BANKS, IMF

PA181235 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 84

[By PRELA reporter Manuel Millares in Caracas]

[Text] Carlos Andres Perez, former Venezuelan president and current president of the Latin American Socialist International, has said that the IMF is an expression of the economic totalitarism against developing countries. For his part, Senator Gonzalo Barrios, president of the governing Democratic Action Party, said that the United States is determined to defend its prosperity by ruining the rest of the world.

These two statements fall in the context of the continent's rejection of the recent increase of interest rates announced by U.S. banks, which further aggravates the already delicate economic and social situation in Latin America. The measure also affects the region's capacity to pay its huge foreign debt, which surpasses $300 billion.

The statements made by these Venezuelan social democratic leaders were also in response to the classification of Venezuela as an irregular debtor country by a group of U.S. bank analysts. This decision has been interpreted by prominent Venezuelan politicians and economists as a means to pressure Venezuela into accepting the stringent measures imposed by the IMF as a condition to obtain the renegotiation of its foreign debt, which has been rejected by Jaime Lusinchi's government.

Carlos Andres Perez has said that the IMF is the leading institution in the system that favors the Western industrialized world over the developing countries. For each one percent increase in interest rates, the so-called Third World countries must make additional payments of approximately $7 billion, of which more than $3 billion applies to Latin America. In view of this situation, the former Venezuelan president reiterated the need for joint action by Latin American countries, based on the resolutions of the Latin American Economic Conference held in Quito, Ecuador, to face the economic and financial policy adopted by the IMF, creditor banks, and the U.S. Government. He warned that this policy -- which could have unpredictable consequences for the region -- is a challenged that must be faced right now, before events force us to do so.

REACTIONS NOTED TO U.S. PLAN TO LEAVE UNESCO

PA191940 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Amadou Mahtar M'Bow, director general of UNESCO, has said in Paris that although every effort should be made to achieve the best agreement among the member-states of this agency, the agency cannot base its functioning on the interests of one country or group of nations without losing the international nature that is its reason for being.

The UNESCO official told this to the French newspaper LE MONDE in connection with the announced U.S. decision to withdraw from UNESCO. The withdrawal of the United States, which has been announced for the end of this year, is an attack on the principle of universality, which is the basis of all UN organizations, and although remaining in them is not a legal obligation, it is a moral obligation, he asserted.

At the debate held by the UNESCO Executive Council to discuss the U.S. decision, Soviet representative (Dmitriy Yermolenko) said that with this decision Washington challenges the international community and endangers the principles of international cooperation.

Arrives in Washington

PA210317 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Salvadoran President-elect Jose Napoleon Duarte said on his arrival in Washington that his country needs U.S. aid to achieve what he called complete democracy. Duarte arrived at Edwards Air Force Base on a U.S. military plane in a direct flight from San Salvador. Duarte stressed that the U.S. Congress has to take into consideration El Salvador's situation and approve the aid that this country needs. He rejected the accusations made by the extreme conservative Roberto D'Aubuisson to the effect that the CIA had bought the Salvadoran elections. Duarte will be interviewed this Sunday on the Meet the Press program of the NBC Television Network, and tomorrow he will be received at the White House by President Ronald Reagan.

ALLEGED REAGAN MOVES TO FUND C.A. POLICY CITED

PA201945 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 May 84

[By Alberto Rabilotta, PRENSA LATINA correspondent in Canada]

[Text] The Reagan administration has authorized the CIA to finance and carry out operations against Nicaragua, in Central America, without authorization from the U.S. Congress. Congressional supervision has been disregarded, according to THE NEW YORK TIMES, and the Pentagon is giving the CIA arms, equipment, and military facilities in Honduras and other countries of the region to launch its attacks against Nicaragua.

Along this line, according to initial charges on this new illegal activity by the Reagan administration against international alw and even against the laws that rule the U.S. executive and legislative branches, the CIA reportedly has utilized several million dollars more than those authorized by Congress for the struggle against the Sandinist government.

Reagan has been implementing internal agreements between the departments of the various secretaries of state -- or ministries -- and invoking the 1920 interdepartmental economic file [acta economica inter-ministerial de 1920], which allows the Pentagon to transfer arms and equipment to the CIA, in some sort of domestic sale, and also to sell or rent this materiel to private companies and foreign governments.

The list of materiel, equipment, arms, and facilities that the Pentagon has given the CIA for its war against Nicaragua includes ships. airplanes, arms, and other equipment sold or rented to front organizations, and there is free transportation for all the equipment. They have also spent $200,000 in improving the Guanacaste, Honduras, air base, which is used by the planes that supply the CIA-financed counterrevolutionaries when they operate in Nicaragua. Two Pentagon radar stations in Honduras have also been transferred to the CIA for its operations against the Sandinist government. The same is true for naval installations in the Gulf of Fonseca, from where some of the attack boats that attack the Nicaraguan coast leave.

According to well-informed sources, the CIA is using some of its enterprises to complement the limited funds provided by Congress for the undeclared war against Nicaragua. The CIA owns several airlines that allow it to transport arms, equipment, and agents. It also partially or totally controls some import and export companies, as well as banks, financial agencies, and market-study enterprises whose revenues are outside legislative control.

For his part, Alfredo Guevara, Cuba's ambassador to UNESCO, said that a state's conditioning of its presence to the revision of agreements that have been accepted by the UNESCO General Assembly cannot be tolerated. Spanish representative (Jose Luis Avellan) also censured the U.S. plan to withdraw from UNESCO.

COSTA RICA MINISTER PRAISES CONTADORA EFFORTS

FL181314 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has praised the recent efforts that the so-called Contadora Group made in Panama to further detente with Nicaragua, describing them as a call for regional peace. Gutierrez pointed out that an agreement now exists that he expects to have good results; this was a clear allusion to the agreement signed this week by Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The two nations agreed to the establishment of a supervisory and preventive commission for their common border, guaranteed by the Contadora Group. The commission will being to function on 26 May.

On Neutrality, Nicaragua

PA191934 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Costa Rican Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez has reiterated in Costa Rica that his country will confront all the pressures on the neutrality policy proclaimed by President Luis Alberto Monge. Gutierrez admitted at a news conference that certain groups reject Costa Rica's stand in favor of peace and negotiation. In this regard, he said that last Wednesday several shots were fired from Costa Rican territory against Nicaragua. He asserted that behind this action one must seek those who oppose a recent agreement between the two countries calling for supervision of their common border. He added that his country has not taken its border problems with Nicaragua to the OAS because following the Malvinas that lacks any vigor.

Concerning El Salvador, Gutierrez said that Costa Rica favors a dialogue between the government and the guerrillas.

SALVADORAN PRESIDENT-ELECT RECEIVES CREDENTIALS

PA190523 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Jose Napoleon Duarte and Rodolfo Castillo have received theri creditials as president and vice president of El Salvador. Salvadoran Provisional President Alvaro Magana and Thomas Pickering, U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, attended the ceremony.

The extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], which lost the 6 May elections, did not send representatives to the ceremony. ARENA's presidential candidate, the fascist Roberto D' Aubuisson, challenged the elections' results, but this was dismissed by the Supreme Electoral Council. D'Aubuisson asked his followers to be prudent and to accept what he termed U.S. imposition on the Salvadoran people.

Duarte will be going this weekend to the United States, where President Ronald Reagan will receive him on Monday.

It is to be supposed, according to the sources, that in addition to the $21 million that the CIA received from Congress during the past fiscal year, a similar amount was obtained through the Pentagon and from the funds and services provided by the enterprises controlled by the CIA in and out of the United States.

Saudi, Israeli Help Requested

PA200212 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] The CIA has asked Saudi Arabia and Israel to support Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries covertly, THE WASHINGTON POST asserted today. The newspaper stressed that the Saudi Government rejected the request, but the Israeli Government is sending millions of dollars in military aid to anti-Sandinists through a third Central American country. The newspaper said that Washington pays for this assistance through the $2.5 billion that the U.S. Government sends annually to the Israeli regime. In addition, the CIA has increased Israeli intelligence's access to confidential information.

NICARAGUA'S D'ESCOTO ON PACT WITH COSTA RICA

PA181507 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] At a news conference held upon his return from Panama, Miguel D'Escoto, Nicaraguan minister of foreign affairs, labeled the formation of a commission to supervise the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica a serious setback for U.S. policy in the Central American region. D'Escoto, who on Tuesday had a meeting with Carlos Jose Gutierrez, the Costa Rican foreign relations minister, stated that the agreement signed by the two countries is one of the most important achievements of the Contadora Group since the Group was established. The agreement, the Nicaraguan foreign minister emphasized, shows a genuine search for peace on the part of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. Nevertheless, it would not have been possible without the active participation of the Contadora Group.

Miguel D'Escoto said that the peoples and governments are convinced that the war that is under way in the region is artificial and is Washington's doing. The people have had enough, he emphasized, and want the fighting to stop.

In San Jose, Costa Rican Foreign Relations Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez said that the agreement signed with his Nicaraguan colleague is a positive step toward achieving peace in Central America.

NICARAGUAN FSLN'S ARCE ON DEFENSE PLANS

PA210401 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Commander Bayardo Arce, coordinator of the FSLN National Directorate's political commission, asserted that Nicaragua will not skimp on a single peso for the country's defense, regardless of the sacrifice required for this purpose.

Before more than 20,000 young people gathered in Jinotega on the occasion of the organization of the Federation of Secondary School Students, Arce reiterated that the Nicaraguan Government will continue negotiating the purchase of arms throughout the world to fight the Americans if they dare invade Nicaragua.

In Nicaragua, a country having close to 3 million people, there are today 1 million students. Of these, 200,000 are in secondary schools.

FSLN'S RENE NUNEZ APPEALS FOR DEFENSIVE UNITY

PA192334 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Rene Nunez, secretary of the FSLN National Directorate, alerted the Nicaraguan people to prepare to defend the national sovereignty because of the danger of a direct U.S. intervention. In a declaration read to the Nicaraguan people, Commander Nunez discussed Washington's plans to break up the revolutionary power, weaken the country's defensive capability, and strike at Nicaragua with military intervention.

The FSLN document added that mercenary forces are the invasion's spearhead and that included in the war machinery being prepared are Honduras' military occupation, pressures to turn Costa Rica into another front for aggression, military exercises, surveillance flights, and the sabotage of the Contadora peace efforts.

The declaration made an appeal to consolidate an alliance of workers and peasants to strengthen the national unity policy.

RAMIREZ ON U.S. INTERFERENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

FL181230 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1105 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Managua -- Dr Sergio Ramirez has warned that the United States not only threatens the Nicaraguan people's peace and tranquility, but also endangers peace and tranquillity for the rest of Central America. Ramirez, a member of Nicaragua's government junta, on answering a question put to him on the popular television program Face the People [Da Cara al Pueblo] said tensions in the area are exacerbated by the Reagan administration.

Ramirez emphasized that the massive shipment of arms, the military construction taking place, and the presence of 6,000 U.S. soldiers after the last maneuvers will turn Honduras into a platform for aggression. On Costa Rica, Ramirez said the CIA has promoted fighting on the border between the two countries to do away with Costa Rica's claim of neutrality, and he praised the recent demonstration by more than 5,000 Costa Ricans who want good relations with Nicaragua.

PANAMA AUTHORITIES CONFIRM ARDITO VICTORY

PA181523 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The Electoral Tribunal of Panama has confirmed the victory of Nicolas Ardito Barletta, the candidate of the National Democratic Union [UNADE], who got 300,748 votes, giving him a margin of 1,713 votes over Arnulfo Arias, the candidate of the Democratic Opposition Alliance [ADO]. The public proclamation of Nicolas Ardito Barletta as president-elect of Panama, and Eric Arturo del Valle and Roderick Esquivel as first and second vice presidents, respectively, will be made soon.

Following his electoral victory, Ardito Barletta stated that he will establish a government of national reconciliation to strengthen democracy and to get the country out of the economic crisis that is having serious social consequences.

GRENADA

FORMER MINISTER RADIX DISCUSSES COUP, INVASION

FL181726 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 2 May 84 p 20

[Excerpts] The number one rule of that Bishop Government was that "the guns of the revolution should not be turned against the people," but this rule was broken by members of the ruling New Jewel Movement in Grenada last October, Kendrick Radix, former Attorney-General and Minister in the Bishop Government said. Mr Radix said that the number one concern of the Bishop Government was security because the Government was aware that revolution breeds counter revolution.

The former Grenadian Minister of Fisheries made his comments while addressing a forum on Grenada sponsored by the Press Association of Jamaica at the Pegasus Hotel on Thursday, April 12. Also speaking at the forum was Mr Alister Hughes, journalist.

Mr Radix said that because of the concern over the security of Grenada and threats faced from outside forces which were against what was going on in Grenada, the Government had taken steps to secure the country and had armed the people. But he said: "It was always the solemn promise of the revolution and the number one rule that the guns would never be turned on the people of Grenada."

Radix said that there was a widening rift in the party prior to the events of last October when Prime Minister Bishop was put under house arrest by a faction within the party, released by citizens, and later killed along with other Cabinet Ministers and citizens. He said that some had been accusing the party, the NJM, of having a "petit bourgeois" leadership. He said that this faction had "installed themselves in the critical areas of national security, in the Central Committee of the Party by subterfuge and came out of the woodwork in September and October."

He said that just before the developments in October the faction led by Coard had improved the "material base" of the Army and promised improvement of the party. Mr Radix said that it was a small faction of not more than 50 persons who staged a coup d'etat, and deposed Mr Bishop. He said Bishop had not acted against the group because he was a "consensual leader, a pragmatist and had the common touch."

Turning to relations with Cuba, Mr Radix said the Cuban Government was very supportive of the Revolution led by Bishop and supportive of Bishop but would not interfere in the country's affairs. He said the Cuban Government provided each year the equivalent of about $500 for each Grenadian. Mr Radix said that some of the boats provided by the Cubans in the fisheries programme had in fact sunk but that was "through the carlessness of Grenadians and not the Cubans."

He criticised the invasion by the U.S. and Caribbean forces and the setting up of an interim government in Grenada. Mr Radix said that the people of Grenada are now "depressed, disappointed and disillusioned." He said that it was no "rescue mission" and that if the U.S. wanted to rescue anyone it should rescue the 25 million Blacks in the U.S. who, he said, are suffering discrimination and the millions of Blacks in South Africa. The Interim Government is stultifying the political process in the country, he said. Mr Radix said the main task facing Grenada at this time was how to keep the country from becoming "a gimme gimme" country.